

HOME NEWS

Government approval of CB radio is hailed as victory

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

A citizen's band radio service has been sanctioned by the Government, Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, announced yesterday. He hopes the personal two-way service will be introduced in the autumn.

But the announcement, made in a parliamentary written reply to Mr Patrick Wall, Conservative MP for Haltempegge, has done little to calm the dispute about interference from equipment used by Citizens' band enthusiasts.

Mr Whitelaw said that the 27 MHz AM (amplitude modulated) equipment now used in Britain would remain illegal. He has decided to permit a service on 27 MHz FM (frequency modulated). Equipment will be required to meet a technical specification, and users will have to buy a licence. A further frequency will be made available at about 930 MHz.

Last night Citizens' band enthusiasts were saying the Government had retreated.

Mr David Evans, general manager of the Radio Society of Great Britain, the national organization for licensed radio amateurs, said: "I think they have just given in." The legal difficulty of the use of the 27 MHz FM has not been raised three or four years ago as it should have been; now the very many illegal operators had created the pressure to force action.

It was estimated that 300,000 were operating illegally, he added. Mr Evans said FM would help to reduce interference, but not to eliminate it. He and Mr Keith Townsend, secretary of the Citizens' Band Association, agreed the difficulties of the situation.

Mr M. J. Spencer, managing director of Citizens Bank UK,

which, he said, imported and distributed legal equipment for citizens' band use, thought the Government had confused the issue. People who had already paid for their sets would not throw them away.

Mr Evans, however, was pleased that the Government was also making a frequency band available around 930 MHz. Mr Whitelaw said that equipment using it should provide a good service with minimum risk of interference.

Speaking of the new service, Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State at the Home Office, said: "The interference which illegal CB equipment is causing to television reception and emergency services is giving rise for concern, and now that the Government has gone so far towards meeting the wishes of supporters of CB, I hope that we can rely on those with illegal equipment to act responsibly and stop using it."

Mr Whitelaw said in a parliamentary written reply on December 18 that he favoured the introduction of citizens' band radio on a frequency of about 930 MHz. But because of public demand for an alternative he agreed to consider the possibility of making legal use of a lower frequency.

The frequency selected, 27 MHz FM, should give CB enthusiasts what they want at about the same cost as illicit equipment, but with far less interference to other users, the Home Office said.

Nearly 5,000 complaints in the past few months of interference to radio, television, and high fidelity equipment were directly traced to the use of illegal 27 MHz AM sets.

Mr Townsend said that his association had asked for evidence to support the Home Office figures of interference complaints, but none had been forthcoming.

Acquisition of control of 'The Observer' may be subject to inquiry by monopolies commission

Lonrho agrees takeover must have government consent

By Dan van der Var

The Government and Lonrho were in agreement yesterday that the company's acquisition of control of *The Observer* required the consent of Mr John Biffen, the Secretary of State for Trade, under the terms of the Fair Trading Act, 1973.

Spokesmen for Lonrho said that the unexpected decision by Atlantic Richfield Corporation (Arco) to exchange the newspaper for a 40 per cent stake in George Outram, Lonrho's wholly owned Glasgow publishing subsidiary, was subject to government approval.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, taking Prime Minister's questions in Parliament in the absence of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, said that government consent was required and that no application for consent had then been received.

However, Lord Duncan-Sandys, chairman of Lonrho, later visited the Department of Trade to discuss the matter.

The Act is clear on the subject. Section 58 reads, in part: "A transfer of a newspaper . . . to a . . . proprietor whose newspapers have an average circulation per day of publication amounting, together with that of the newspaper concerned in the transfer, to 500,000 or more copies shall be unlawful and void, unless the transfer is made with written consent given . . . by the Secretary of State (for Trade)."

The *Observer* sells almost a million copies.

The Secretary of State is required to call on the newspaper panel of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to conduct an investigation before he gives his consent. There are two exceptions: Where the newspaper concerned is not economic and when the transfer is one of urgency or if the newspaper is not intended to continue as a separate paper.

The second exception applied to *The New Standard's* absorption of *The Evening News* in London last year. The first was held by Mr Biffen to apply when Mr Rupert Murdoch took over Times Newspapers.

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Once-bitten, twice shy postmen get relief

By Patricia Tisdall

Postmen who are threatened by fierce dogs can take comfort from new powers that will permit postal deliveries to be made to garden gate letter boxes, Mr Charles Morris, Labour MP for Manchester, Openshaw, said yesterday.

He was speaking in favour of a clause of the British Telecommunications Bill that will enable mail to be delivered to boxes at ends of farm lanes or at a central point in a block of flats, but only if the recipient agrees.

On average, 4,250 postmen were bitten by dogs while delivering mail in each of the past three years, Mr Morris told the committee examining the Bill.

One in five bites were serious enough to cause the postman to stay off work for three days or more, yet he might have to return to the same address for more of the same medicine.

Under the Post Office's "judicious" procedures for dealing with such incidents, the Head Postmaster had to write to the owner of the dog warning him that his dog was dangerous. "And who has to deliver this letter but the postman, possibly the same one who had been bitten in the first place?"

Mr Morris urged dog owners and the Post Office to take advantage of the new garden gate delivery service allowed under the Bill. However, any such relief for once-bitten, twice-shy postmen depended on co-operation from householders.

The Post Office would have preferred to make such services compulsory, to allow it more scope to cut costs rather than to protect postmen, Mr Michael Marshall, Under-Secretary of State for Industry, told the committee. But the Government had decided that it should be by agreement.

Romantic enterprise commended

By Staff Reporters

The Prince of Wales, in presenting the Enterprise Scotland awards in Glasgow yesterday, commended his own recent piece of enterprise.

He said he was happy to say that the announcement of his engagement had made shares go up. "Value for money," he remarked.

He had been touched to see how happy the news had made other people in the midst of what was otherwise not an encouraging outlook.

Such was the anxiety that I had heard of the Prince's wedding or so from various organizations saying, "Please hurry up and do something about it." They wanted to take advantage of it commercially."

—MF—

Mrs Frances Shand Kydd, the mother of Lady Diana Spencer, returned to London from Australia yesterday. She said that Lady Diana had telephoned her a few hours after she had accepted the Prince's proposal.

To replace Allibar, the Prince's horse that died suddenly last week, he has bought Good Prospect, a 22-time winner.

Approval for Trident force sought

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

The Parliamentary authority for Trident nuclear missile submarines to replace the present Polaris force as a viable independent British strategic deterrent is to be sought by the Government at the conclusion of a Commons debate next Tuesday.

A small group of Cabinet ministers decided last July to build British submarines to carry the long-range Trident missile, being purchased from the United States at an estimated cost of about £5,000m.

However, the decision has never been put to Parliament. It was debated briefly only on the Liberals' initiative last August.

Ministers say certain commitments in the procurement programme will be seen as authorized by next Tuesday's vote.

The precise terms of the government motion are not known. If it specifies Trident the Opposition will vote against.

However, the Shadow Cabinet has not discussed its position on the continuation of the Polaris force since Mr Michael Foot became leader of the Opposition.



Mrs Yvonne Jackman, whose husband, Robin Jackman, has been banned from playing cricket in Guyana because of his South African contacts.

Eire worry on defence pact hint

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

Senior Irish politicians are increasingly worried about the future of the commonwealth of neutrality in international affairs after suggestions that Britain and Ireland might consider establishing a defence pact.

Controversy has been heightened by some apparently unguarded remarks by Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, on Irish Radio.

He said of the possibility of a defence agreement: "This is something, no doubt, that can be talked about. Indeed, we have a common interest in resisting totalitarianism, any potential enemies, and as I say, here we are off the coast of Europe."

We are threatened; Europe is threatened. We have a close interest as any other two countries in Europe, and therefore of course this can be talked about."

He thought that the subjects to be discussed in the Anglo-Irish summit which were agreed at Dublin summit house in the British and Irish prime ministers last December were still being looked at.

"Nothing is going to be decided until the two heads of government meet again some time in the summer," Mr Frank Cluskey, leader of the Labour Party, clashed with the Speaker in the Dail yesterday after being ruled out of order when he tried to question Mr Charles Haughey, the Prime Minister, about Mr Atkins' remarks.

Dr Garret FitzGerald, leader of Fine Gael, declared that he would put down a special notice question on the issue.

He demanded a statement from Mr Haughey and accused him of misleading the House a fortnight ago when he denied that the policy of neutrality was to be abandoned in favour of a military alliance with Britain.

Ulster "loyalism", page 14

Union threat to signals spy unit

By Peter Hennessy

Britain's Composite Signals Organization, which provides essential raw material drawn from the communications of potentially hostile foreign powers for defence intelligence and the Secret Intelligence Service, M16, could be seriously affected by industrial action threatened by the General Union of Civil Service Unions in furtherance of its pay claim.

Under the United States-United Kingdom Intelligence Agreement, 1946, Whitehall and Washington have divided up the world between them for the purpose of gathering signals intelligence.

During industrial action taken by data processing staff in 1979 at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) in Cheltenham, the establishment of the Composite Signals Organization, the United States National Security Agency (NSA) was able to provide cover for the British intelligence community for several weeks.

Should selective strike action take place as expected next month, there is a strong possibility that a small but important number of signals intelligence activities will be disrupted where adequate alternative cover by the NSA is not feasible.

New plans drawn up by the Civil Service unions, whose members work for the GCHQ and the Composite Signals Organization, on the basis of experience gained between December, 1979, and March, 1980, when station radio officers took sporadic and largely successful industrial action, could thwart the counter-measures envisaged by the Government's contingency planners.

Among the monitoring stations servicing GCHQ whose yield is deemed important by the Whitehall intelligence community, and whose work the NSA cannot properly duplicate, are listening posts in Hong Kong and on Ascension Island, in the South Atlantic.

Much of the work of the station on Irtan Moor, above Scarborough, can be taken over by the NSA, but parts of it cannot. They include aspects important to Nato's biannual war simulation exercise, code-named Wimerx 81, which is due to start on March 8, a day before the one-day strike planned by the Civil Service unions.

Another area of particular acute concern to Whitehall contingency planners sitting on a secret Cabinet committee of senior officials known as E (OCS), from its title, Economy (Official Civil Service), which meets under the chairmanship of Mr Angus Fraser, a Civil Service Department deputy secretary, is computers used for tax gathering by the Customs and Excise and the Inland Revenue.

The customs yield an average of £462m a week to the Exchequer and the Inland Revenue £511m. Contingency plans prepared by E(OCS) could prevent all of that being lost through selective strikes against computer installations, but the committee estimated that government worries about the public sector borrowing requirement could be exacerbated by the loss of £100m in six weeks.

E(OCS) plans are implemented by the Government to pay their Paye tax returns and national insurance contributions by alternative means once a month.

The clearing banks and the Post Office could be asked to act as temporary reception centres for such payments, which would be calculated on a rough-and-ready basis from receipts received in the recent past, with the Government promising to make adjustments once the strike was over.

Non-computer staff remaining at work in customs and revenue local offices could be asked by their departments to accept such payments over the counter, even though that is not normally part of their duties. If they refuse, the Civil Service unions believe the Government will implement what is known as E(OCS) circles as the "slaughter of the innocents" option.

That involves suspending without pay non-striking staff who refuse instructions to cover for their colleagues taking industrial action.

Since the time of the Callaghan Administration successive law officers have given conflicting advice about the legality of such a move, but the present Government seems keen to apply it on the ground that although an individual civil servant does not have a contract of employment, his or her conditions of service amount to the same thing.

Prison crisis measures allowed to lapse

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Emergency measures announced by the Government in October to deal with the crisis created by prison officers' industrial action are being allowed to lapse tomorrow.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said in a parliamentary written reply yesterday that he did not propose to seek continuation of the Imprisonment (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1980.

He told Mr Edward Gardner, Conservative MP for South Fylde, that the suspension of

industrial action by officers had allowed the emergency use of Frankland Prison and Rolleston Camp to be ended. By the end of this week it should no longer be necessary to use police cells instead of prison accommodation.

He praised the "outstanding" performance of servicemen and police in helping with the care and custody of prisoners and thanked the courts for their understanding.

Negotiations with the Prison Officers' Association on a new duty system were proceeding, Mr Whitelaw said.

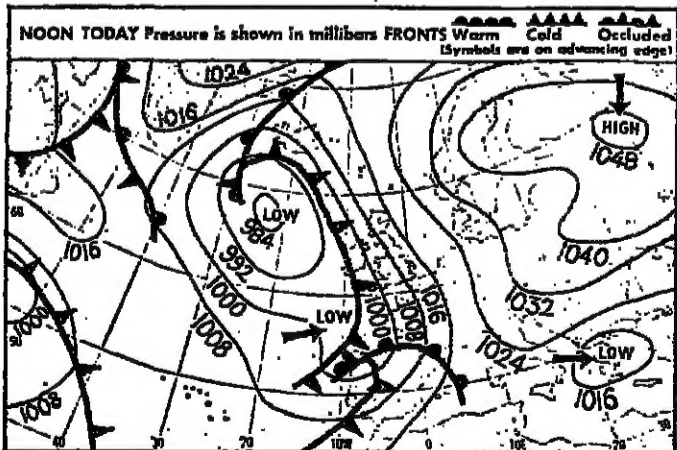
Mrs Yvonne Jackman, whose husband, Robin Jackman, has been banned from playing cricket in Guyana because of his South African contacts.

Mrs McAliskey leaves hospital

Mrs Bernadette McAliskey, the former MP, who was shot several times at her home on January 16, left the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, on Tuesday, it was revealed yesterday.

She was reunited with her husband, who was also wounded in the attack, and they are believed to have slipped into the Irish Republic to stay with friends. The couple have three young children.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today

Sun rises: 6.50 am
Sun sets: 5.37 pm
Moon rises: 1.36 am
Moon sets: 10.44 am

Last quarter: 1.14 am
Lighting up: 6.07 pm to 6.18 am
High water: London Bridge, 6.30 am, 5.9m; 7.15 pm, 5.9m; Avonmouth, 11.46 am, 9.9m; Dover, 3.56 am, 5.4m; 4.31 pm, 5.1m; Hull, 12.22 am, 5.9m; 11.54 pm, 5.8m; Liverpool, 4.14 am, 7.2m; 4.37 pm, 7.2m.

1 ft = 0.3048 m 1 in = 2.54 cm

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: All areas lie in a strong SE airstream.

London, SE, NW, central N England, East Anglia, E Midlands, Lancashire, SW NW Scotland, Glasgow, central Highland, Moray Firth, Argyll: Dry, sunny intervals; wind SE fresh to strong; max temp 5° to 6°C (41° to 43°F).

Central S England, W Midlands, C. fair; r. rain; s. sun; sl. sleet.

Channel Islands, N Wales, Isle of Man: Dry, sunny intervals, becoming cloudier; wind SE fresh to strong; max temp 3° to 4°C (37° to 39°F).

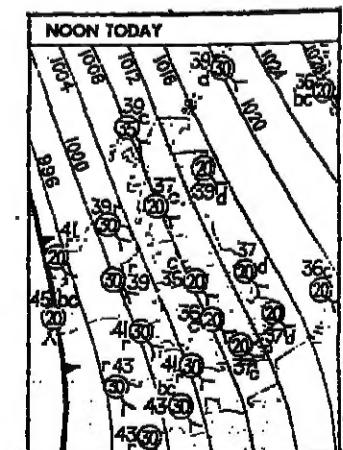
Ir. NE England, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Mostly dry, rather cloudy, few sunny intervals; wind SE, fresh; max temp 2° to 3°C (36° to 37°F).

SW England, S Wales, N Ireland: Rather cloudy, rain slowly spreading from W; wind SE, strong; max temp 5° to 6°C (41° to 43°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Continuing cold.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind SE strong; sea rough. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind SE strong to gale; sea very rough.

The weather forecast chart on February 21 showed the wind in the opposite direction to that forecast.



Yesterday

London: Temp: max 6 am 11.6°C (53°F); min 6 pm 1.0°C (34°F). Humidity: 6 pm, 72 per cent. Rain, 2.4 mm. Wind: S.W. 10 to 15 mph. Bar. mean sea level, 6 pm 1,021.9 millibars, falling.

1,021.9 millibars = 29.53 in.

Speedy decisions pledge on coal, steel, rail

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The Government yesterday took a stage further its "pragmatic" policy of accommodation with powerful trade unions by promising to speed decisions on investment in the nationalized industries.

Union leaders of the coal-steel-rail "triple alliance" left talks with ministers convinced that there has been a significant shift in attitudes towards state-owned enterprises.

Detecting the change of heart, Mr Joseph Gormley, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, said: "There is no feeling that you are just talking to your damn selves. It seems that they are listening." The steelworkers' leader, Mr William Sims, added: "It appears there is a change in attitude."

They were speaking after nearly two hours of talks between leaders of the NUM, the National Union of Railway-

men and the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and senior Cabinet ministers on union proposals for greater public investment in their industries.

The "summit" at the Department of Employment brought together union leaders and Mr James Prior, the Secretary of State for Employment, Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Industry, Mr David Howell, the Secretary of State

for Energy and Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Transport.

Mr Prior emphasized at the meeting that the Government was not prejudiced against public investment. He repeated that view at a press conference, while conceding that there were legitimate fears among Conservative backbenchers that state industry was getting a large share of available cash.

Tory sniping on interest rates fails to disarm Chancellor

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, was left in no doubt yesterday of the deep concern throughout the Commons, of friend and foe alike, at the economic state of the nation and of the dire need to say something, if only good-bye, that might encourage the belief that better times were on the way.

Against the background of his Budget statement in 11 days' time and the disturbing news yesterday of the trading losses of ICI and the halving of its final dividend, the Chancellor came under heavy pressure from both Tory and Labour benches to reduce interest rates and produce some formula to

relieve Britain's hard-pressed industries.

Presumably, somewhere in the jungle of backbenchers Sir Geoffrey must have had his supporters, but if so they were keeping their heads well below the parapet.

The Chancellor, who was being interrogated at the last question time for the Treasury before the Budget on March 10, was given a clear warning by Tory MPs that they are not going to be satisfied much longer with sightings by the Government of pots of gold at the foot of the rainbow and lights at the end of tunnels.

Yesterday's rumblings from a growing band of malcantons on the Tory benches must have indicated to Sir Geoffrey that "steady as she goes" is not going to be enough on Budget day and that he will be in hot water unless he comes up with a programme for recovery that will at least sound realistic.

On past occasions the voices of unrest have usually been balanced by those urging the government to stay the course. Treasury prophesies that the recession will start to bottom out later in the year usually brought comfort to the weak of heart.

But yesterday even Mr John Bruce-Gardyne, the hardest monetarist of them all, was not to be heard pleading with the Government to stand firm.

Challenged first from the Labour benches, Sir Geoffrey resorted to the usual tranquillizers about keeping interest rates under review and his

desire to see them come down. But he was soon brought sharply to attention as the Conservative benches joined in.

Another Tory, Mr Robin Squire, quoted the imaginative article in last Sunday's *Observer* on the need to reduce the rate by 3 per cent in the Budget. There would be even greater pleasure, he said, if the rate was brought down instantly.

With Treasury Ministers gagged by the requirement not to reveal anything in advance of the Budget, Sir Geoffrey's replies are somewhat cryptic. He refused, however, to undertake any significant relaxation of the economy. To do so, he said, would undermine the substantial progress made in reducing inflation.

Parliamentary report, page 11

Overseas selling prices

Australia \$2; Austria Sch 20; Bahrain BD 0.500; Belgium 100; Benin CFA 200; Bolivia B 100; Brazil R 100; Canada C 100; Ceylon Rs 100; Denmark D 100; Egypt L.E. 100; Finland F 100; France F 100; Germany DM 100; Greece Dr 100; Hong Kong HK\$ 100; India Rupee 100; Italy L 100; Japan Yen 100; Korea Won 100; Kuwait KD 100; Luxembourg L 100; Malaysia RM 100; Mauritania M 100; Mexico M 100; Monaco M 100; Morocco M 100; New Zealand NZ\$ 100; Nigeria N 100; Norway Kr 100; Pakistan Rupee 100; Portugal Esc 100; Saudi Arabia SR 100; Singapore S\$ 100; South Africa Rand 100; Spain Ptas 100; Sweden Krona 100; Switzerland Fr 100; Taiwan NT\$ 100; Thailand Baht 100; Turkey Liras 100; Uganda Shs 100; United Kingdom £ 100; USA \$ 100; Venezuela Bs 100; Yugoslavia Din 100.

All quotations are in pence.

As a kind of...
As a kind of...
As a kind of...

A dedicated child handbooks the entire family. He needs more care and attention, the special needs of a child. When possible, a dedicated child should be at home with his family but his crises overcome. Parents need help to look after their child, and help to cope with his needs.

In our day-care and family centres, as well as our residential centres, parents come for advice and bring their children to our social training groups. We provide holidays for the children to give parents a much-needed break from constant caring. These families need our support, and we need your. Please send a donation to:

Children First,
Church of England
Children's Society
Room 111, 112, 113
Old Town Hall,
Rennismuir Road,
London SE11 4QD.

هكذا من الأصل

More Granada. No more money.

The Granada has always been one of the best-equipped of the big executive saloons.

Now we've made it more comfortable than ever.

Because even the Granada has been given our 'Added Value' treatment. We've built in a wealth of extras for no extra money.

Here are some of the new features you'll find in the 2.0 litre L.

To set the mood, how about a cigar?

Even back seat passengers now

get a cigar lighter. It's a small

touch, maybe, but then

many of life's little luxuries are.

The biggest change is to the seats. These are now trimmed in luxurious crushed velour, the material that used to be in the Granada GL, a class above.

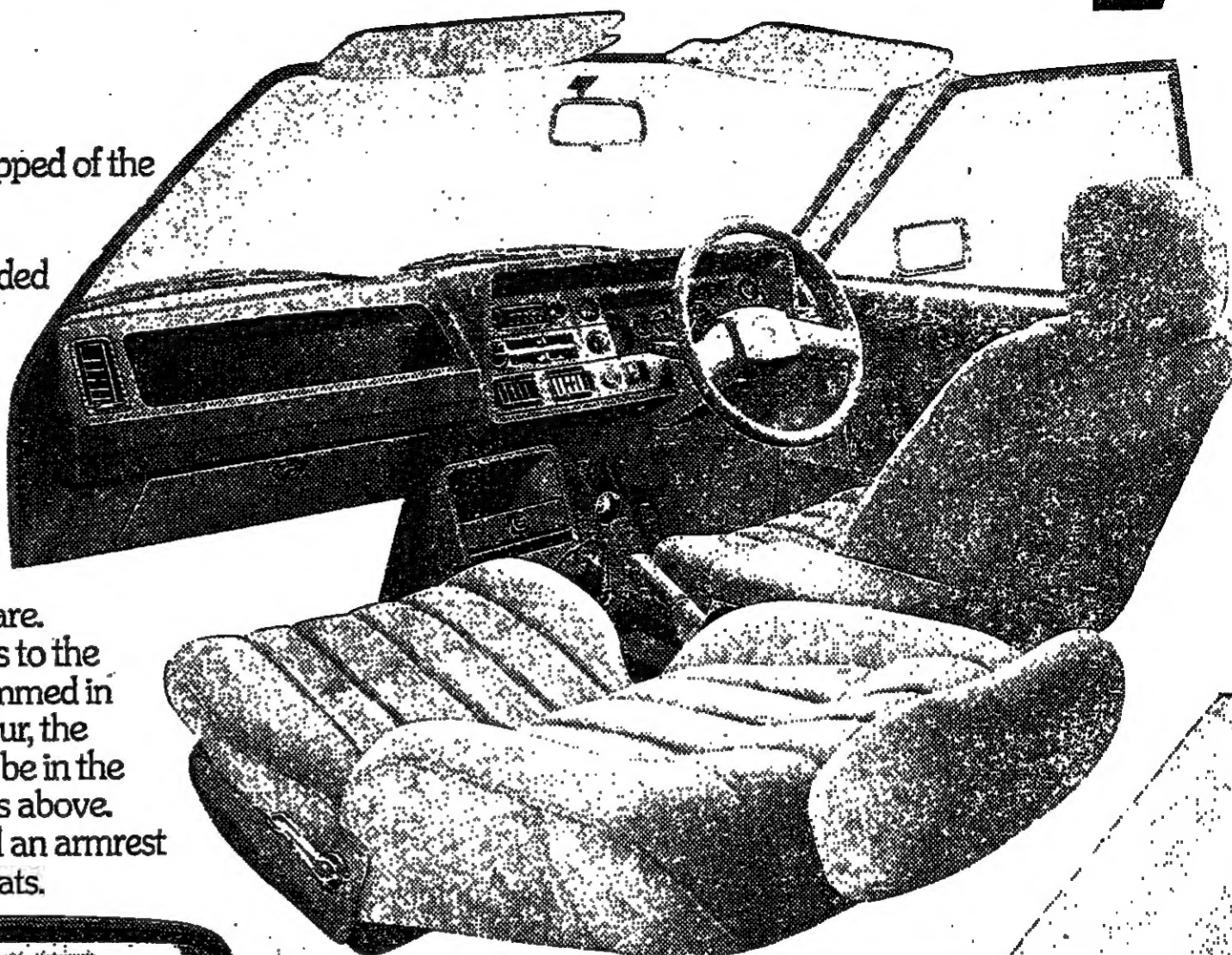
We've also added an armrest between the front seats.

It incorporates a glove box, a handy place to keep change for parking meters.

Another new feature is a remote control driver's door mirror.

In fact, the Granada is packed with little touches like these that all make life just a shade more comfortable.

Every time you drive it you'll be impressed by the thoroughness of its design. Not to mention its effortless, silent power.

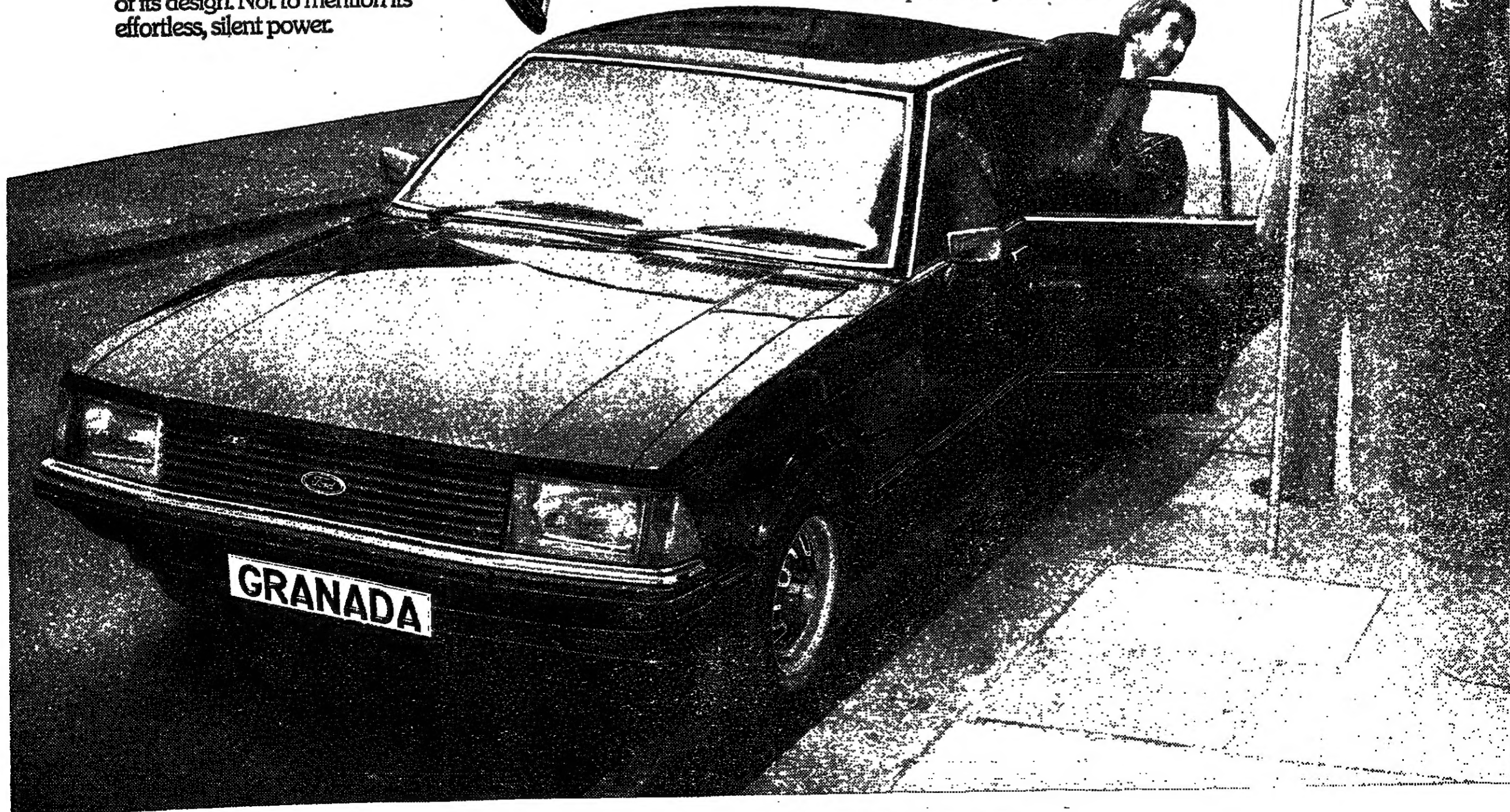


The Granada 2.0 litre L still costs only £6179*. So why not drop in to your local Ford dealers and arrange for a test drive.

While you're there you should have a look at the 'Added Value' Fiestas.

One of those would make a super little second car for a Granada owner.

The Popular only costs £2849*.



Here's what we've added to other Granadas without adding to their prices.

Granada GL. Plus: Durham/velour upholstery from Ghia. From £7588* for the new 2 litre saloon. There is also a new 2 litre estate.
Granada Ghia. Plus: bodyside pinstripe, new Chatsworth/velour trim, rear seat head restraints in the saloon. Still from £9582*.

*Manufacturer's prices as at 21st January 1981. Seat belts, car tax and VMT included. Delivery and number plates at extra cost.

Ford gives you more.



HOME NEWS

Authorities have blank cheque for opening political mail, MP says in urging curbs on scrutiny

By Patricia Tisdall

Allegations that interception and copying of mail is so commonplace that "crude and blatant mistakes" occur were made during the committee stage of the Telecommunications Bill in the House of Commons yesterday.

Moving a new clause that would introduce statutory controls on interception of letters, Mr Kenneth Weetch, Labour MP for Ipswich, said that such surveillance was at least as common as telephone tapping.

There was evidence that at least 400 letters a year connected with political organizations were tampered with in London alone, he said.

"If the public is under any illusion that every letter that is intercepted is on proper authority of the Home Secretary, then they will believe anything."

A network for intercepting letters existed in Britain, he said. At every post office there was a list of cards, regularly updated, with details of every group whose mail the Special Branch, MI5 or other requesting agencies wanted to intercept.

Those letters were specially sorted and there was a fleet of motor cycles waiting at postal headquarters in St Martin's-Le-Grand, in London, to take them to the corporation's special investigation division.

Inspector Clouseau-type blunders were made, Mr Weetch said. The Freedom Bookshop, in

Stepney, east London, found a batch of six letters that had been delivered to it in 1972; he showed the receipt to the committee.

Mr Jim Huggon, who is responsible for the bookshop, part of an anarchist publishing group, confirmed later that the receipt had been found.

There was no "hard evidence" that the shop's mail, mainly concerned with book orders and general inquiries, had been tampered with since then, Mr Huggon said. While there were inevitably suspicions about mail that had been opened and officially revealed because of "damage in transit", use of methods such as X-rays means that it was impossible to detect interference.

Mr Weetch described to the committee some of the instruments used secretly to scrutinize mail without leaving traces.

They included a device like a spinning needle inserted in envelopes to photograph the contents, and carbon scanners that picked up ink traces through envelopes so that a letter could be read.

The new clause, which would ban all interceptions except for detecting serious crime, terrorism and espionage, is similar to that proposed to control telephone tapping.

Mr Weetch said that organizations like the Special Branch

and MI5 and possibly unauthorized groups had a blank cheque for opening mail for purely political reasons.

"If you are to the left of the Labour Party or to the right of the Tory party, then there is a high probability that you will be investigated in some shape or form."

Tampering with letters was at least as prevalent as telephone tapping, he said.

The Home Office is opposing legal controls on interception of mail.

A statement from the Home Office read out by Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Industry and Information Technology, opposing the clause, said it was unnecessary because a warrant from the Secretary of State was needed before mail could be legally intercepted under existing legislation.

In addition, there was a risk of helping criminals because secrecy could not be maintained if the courts were able to inquire into individual circumstances.

Like the clause on telephone tapping, the proposed legal controls were debated again at the Bill's report stage.

Mr John Gorst, Conservative MP for Barnet, Hendon North, who had swung the committee's vote in favour of the earlier telephone tapping amendment, abstained yesterday, but he said the principle behind the clause was essential.

Hope of victory over phone tapping

By Frances Gibb

A Conservative backbencher said yesterday that he was quietly confident of mustering the necessary support among Tory MPs to defeat the Government in its resistance to statutory controls on telephone tapping.

Mr John Gorst, MP for Barnet, Hendon North, believes he can find the 20 or so Tory MPs needed to ensure that the Labour-sponsored clause on tapping remains in the Telecommunications Bill.

It was Mr Gorst's backing for the clause that brought about the Government's defeat at the Bill's committee stage. The Government has declared its

intention to reverse the defeat at the report stage.

But fears were expressed yesterday from within the 125,000-member Post Office Engineering Union, which backs the clause, that the timing of Lord Diplock's report on telephone tapping, to be published next Tuesday, is an attempt to deflect support for the legislation.

Mr Roger Darlington, assistant research officer at the union and author of its report, *Tapping the Telephone*, which provides the material for the clause, said: "The Diplock report is part of a parliamentary struggle to avoid any law on telephone tapping."

The union's report, published last summer, expressed concern over the range of unofficial tapping, which is not covered by Lord Diplock's review, and also at the lack of legal safeguards and legal remedies against abuses in official tapping.

Mr Darlington said yesterday that the clause, which was supported by Mr Gorst in principle but not in all details, might be whittled down with a view to gaining more Conservative support.

He wants the clause amended so that tapping can be allowed for "subversive", as well as "terrorist" and "espionage", activities.

Cardinal Hume opens an investigation into the activities of Opus Dei

By Dan van der Vat

Cardinal Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, has instructed an inquiry into the role of the secretive organization, Opus Dei, in the church in England, it was disclosed yesterday.

Dr John Roche, a former senior member of the organization and an Oxford don, went to Archbishop's House yesterday at the Cardinal's request to

hand a collection of confidential documents to one of the Cardinal's advisers.

An official at Archbishop's House said that Cardinal Hume had also asked Opus Dei to supply him with documents. The official confirmed that Dr Roche had complied with the request to produce his papers. It was Dr Roche's concern

about Opus Dei's recruitment of teenagers and the psychological pressures he claims it applies to its members that led him to show his documents to *The Times*, which published its findings on the organization last month. Other news organizations have since taken up the subject.

Dr Roche's documents include copies of *Cronica*, a publication

restricted to senior members of Opus Dei, which Roman Catholic theologians consulted by *The Times* found to be theologically questionable. He also handed in letters he has received since the original article appeared from individuals about the experiences of themselves or their children in Opus Dei.

Opus Dei was founded in Spain in 1928 and claims a

worldwide membership of more than 70,000, nearly all lay people.

A minority who constitute its highest level of membership, the full-time "numeraries", are required to mortify themselves by wearing an abrasive chain on their thighs for two hours a day and applying a multiple-whip to themselves once a week.



A woman was killed and seven people were injured when these buses collided at Archway, London, yesterday.

Councils' concern over effects of music ruling

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

A number of local authorities admitted yesterday that they have suspected for many years that it was against the law to charge fees for music lessons in school, but had done so to be able to continue an invaluable service.

That service is now in jeopardy in many areas after the High Court ruling on Wednesday that Hereford and Worcester had no legal right to charge a parent fees for instrumental tuition given to his two daughters as part of their normal curriculum within school hours.

Local authorities all over the country yesterday were anxiously consulting legal advisers to see whether they will also be obliged to stop charging for instrumental tuition and possibly various school activities such as swimming, craft courses, residential or field trips and examination fees; and whether they will have to repay fees.

Mr John Gifford, director of education for Hereford and Worcester, and Mr John Arnett, chairman of the county's education committee, confirmed that the £50,000 paid by parents for instrumental tuition since the fees were introduced last April would be repaid.

Mr Gifford said that although Mr Justice Forbes had given no ruling on whether the authority was obliged to repay the money, he understood that the ruling was implicit in the authority's undertaking to the High Court to act as "reasonable people".

Some authorities, like Oxfordshire, have been charging fees for years and the sums involved could therefore be substantial. Many authorities are clearly appalled by the possible wide effects of the ruling, particularly in relation to instrumental tuition, which is expensive and traditionally regarded as an "extra" in the curriculum, and therefore likely to be an early candidate for cuts.

Some authorities are examining the possibility of taking the activities for which fees are charged outside school hours in the hope that that would not be counted as "education provided in any (maintained) school" in respect of which the law stipulates fees may not be charged.

In brief

Cathedral arches to be repaired

Work is to begin shortly on repairing the flying buttresses arches on the medieval chapter house of Lincoln Cathedral, which have been damaged by heavy traffic.

Concern about cracks in the arches caused by vibration was expressed in a letter to *The Times* last summer signed by the Director of the British Museum and the former Archbishop of Canterbury, among others. The city council has since agreed to a permanent ban on vehicles over three tons on the road past the east end of the cathedral.

QC to lead defence of Peter Sutcliffe

Mr James Chadwin, QC of Newcastle upon Tyne, will lead the defence of Peter Sutcliffe, the Bradford lorry driver who is charged with the murder of 13 women and the attempted murder of seven others. Junior counsel will be Mr Sydney Levine, of Bradford. Mr Harry O'Neill, QC, and Mr John Hitchen will appear for the prosecution. No date has been fixed for the trial.

Widow to get £126,000

Mrs Gillian Edison, a widow, of Ellison Street, Bracebridge, Lincolnshire, was awarded £126,000 agreed damages in the High Court yesterday against the Humberside Sea and Land Services Ltd, of Nottingham Dock, for the loss of her husband, a crane driver, who died from burns after an explosion at work.

PC murder bid charge

Stuart Blackstock, aged 26, of no fixed address, and Leslie Cooke, aged 21, of Elm Tree Avenue, Northolt, west London, were committed in custody by magistrates at Uxbridge yesterday, accused of attempting to murder a London policeman; Philip Olds.

Building control plans

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, announcing publication of the Government's proposals for building control yesterday, said they were designed to produce clearer and more usable regulations.

Man found hanged

Police investigating the death of a man in Epsom, Surrey, of Mr Nigel Weeks, aged 27, son of Mr Alan Weeks, the television sports commentator, who was found hanged, said yesterday there were no suspicious circumstances.

Youth dies in cliff fall

Martin Palau, aged 16, of Midhurst Road, Ealing, west London, died on Wednesday after falling from a cliff-top path at St Gennys, near Bude, Cornwall, it was disclosed yesterday.

Oil slick plea

Oil leaks from the German ferry, *Ems*, which sank off the Norfolk coast last month, have killed hundreds of sea birds. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has asked the Department of Trade to neutralize the hazard.

Anxious fortnight ends in solvency

How water authorities swam with the tide

By Christopher Warman

Local Government Correspondent

The last two weeks have been an anxious time for the nine English regional water authorities, beginning with the announcement of a government inquiry into their proposed charges for the coming year and ending with a pay settlement for their 32,000 manual workers substantially above their wishes.

The two events combined might have left the authorities in a state of disarray, if not near bankruptcy, but for various reasons they have emerged relatively unharmed and in good spirits.

The Thames Water Authority, the largest of the nine, said confidently last night: "We will take it in our stride."

The pay settlement, a 12.3 per cent increase, compares with the employers' first offer of 7.9 per cent and the subsequent offer of 10 per cent. Authorities are always reluctant to disclose the allowance in their budgets for wage increases, but it is certain that most would have budgeted for an increase of about 10 per cent, if not more.

When the Anglian Water Authority met on Wednesday to consider reductions in the budget, they were told that an increase in "high single figures" had been anticipated, but that the higher pay agreement was manageable.

The reason is that water is a capital intensive industry, and the wage bill, although important, is only a small part of the total costs.

The settlement adds £20.3m to a wage bill of £164m, a small sum compared with the industry's total revenue expenditure which was £1,500m in 1979-80.

For Thames, which has set a budget of £409m, each 1 per cent on the wage bill means an extra cost of £600,000. The settlement will therefore cost

more than £1m more than a 10 per cent agreement would have done, but the authority has made its calculations and does not envisage any further adjustments.

North West allowed £63.4m for wages in its £275.5m budget, compared with £58m last year. In the same period its balances have been reduced from £13.9m to £3.2m, which leaves little room for manoeuvre.

"It is going to be very tight, and the extra will have to be recovered from the consumer in the future," the authority said. For settlement smart, the authorities have had to reduce their charges at the Government's request after Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, sent in a series of independent accounts to identify areas where savings could be made.

That came after complaints, especially from industry and commerce, about the proposed increases, ranging from 14 to 28 per cent.

As a result of the exercise the range of increases is now from 12 to 19 per cent, but that is not simply the result of savings. In most cases the accountants reported that they could see little scope for savings, but asked for them nevertheless.

Anglian was told to cut operating costs by £2m. It was in fact the Government that allowed the authorities to propose lower charges by relaxing its rules on the newly introduced current cost accounting system and easing the financial targets.

Thus, Anglian has been able to reduce its rate increase from 19.8 to 12.4 per cent, mostly with government help.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher congratulated the water authorities in the House of Commons on Tuesday for reducing their charges.

What she did not say was that the Department of the Environment had got its sums wrong.

Bacon prices cut by Danish and British suppliers

By Hugh Clayton

A bacon war broke out yesterday as Danish and British suppliers cut prices.

The Danish Bacon Factories' Exporters' Association, which supplies 43 per cent of the bacon eaten in Britain, cut its wholesale price of bacon sides by about 2p a pound and F&M, the largest British curer, reduced its price by 1p.

Mr Sven Berntsen, managing director of the Danish association, said: "The consumer should benefit from the severe competition in the bacon market. We decided to reduce our price because many of our competitors have been giving substantial discounts on their official prices."

The latest survey of shop prices from the Meat and Livestock Commission shows that some cuts of roasting pork cost the same as a year ago.

Doctor says he would leave addicts to die

From Our Correspondent

A doctor has written in the *Manchester University Magazine*, *Communication*, that he believes drug addicts and distributors should be put on uninhabited island, supplied with their drug needs, and allowed to die.

Dr Henry Ashworth, aged 60, who has been in general practice in the Ardwick district of Manchester for 30 years and is a lecturer in the Department of General Practice at the university, said in the article: "I would put them on an uninhabited island off the coast of Scotland, supply them with their drugs, and there they would live until they died."

"The treatment success rate is dismally low and, at any rate, it would stop them infecting other members of the community, with their pernicious habits."

Phantoms to be phased out in RAF economies

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

Plans to bolster Britain's air defences in the late 1980's by keeping in service three squadrons of McDonnell Douglas Phantom interceptors have been dropped because the scheme would be too expensive in money and manpower.

The idea was to have the Phantoms flying alongside the initial squadrons of the 165 air defence versions of the Tornado multirole aircraft which the Royal Air Force has on order.

But the cost of keeping three Phantom squadrons in service, instead of phasing them out as

the Tornado arrives, would be as high as £60m.

The main costs would come from modernizing the Phantom's weapons and electronics systems and keeping its ageing airframe and engines in front-line condition, a process that is proving increasingly expensive.

A plan to establish a third squadron of British Aerospace Lightning interceptors to join the only two in the RAF, both established at Binbrook, Lincolnshire, has been dropped in an effort to reduce the defence budget by £200m next year.

The Lightnings are, however, to be kept at Binbrook as a "shadow" squadron to be activated when necessary. Some are used for training. It would take about two weeks to work the squadron up into a state of high readiness.

In a further effort to plug the gaps in Britain's aviation defences, experienced jet pilots who are at "flying desks" in administrative jobs will be sent back to squadrons periodically to keep up their experience so that, in an emergency, they could move quickly back into the front line.

The difficulty arises in finding them sufficient spare flying hours when the RAF is forced

to reduce the time each pilot spends in the air, as part of the service's economy drive.

RAF pilots are reduced to flying only 17 hours a month, from 22 hours previously, and observers of the Service wonder whether such a low figure will suffice to maintain safety standards.

Other recent cuts imposed on the RAF have reduced the number of Shackleton early warning aircraft, so that only three or four will be operational on any one day. Shackletons are due to be replaced by the jet-powered Nimrod in 1983-84.

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Marshland drainage threat to Broads

By John Young

Planning Reporter

The Broads Authority is to decide today whether to endorse the drainage of nearly 3,000 acres of grazing marshland near Great Yarmouth.

The authority has designated the area, Halvergate Marshes, as of exceptional landscape significance, and its principal adviser is opposed to the

scheme. But its strategy committee has recommended approval.

Conservationists fear not only that the landscape will be irrevocably changed, but also that the scheme will strengthen the case for a barrier across the River Yare to prevent salt water flooding arable land. The Nature Conservancy, which fears a threat to the whole character of the Broads, is opposed to the barrier, but doubts

have been expressed about the authority's ability to influence the decisions of local land drainage committees.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England yesterday drew attention to the cumulative effect of drainage schemes, not only on the Broads but also on areas such as Amberley Wild Brooks, in West Sussex, the Somerset Levels and the Ribblesdale, in Lancashire.

Royal College of Art's new rector

Professor Lionel March, president of design at the Open University, is to become rector of the Royal College of Art, succeeding to Sir Richard Gwyther, who retires at the end of the summer.

The college's student union said last night it was confident that Professor March would give the support needed to face up to the Department of Education and Science.

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HOME NEWS

Downward trend in Anglican church membership reversed

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs
Correspondent

The Church of England appears to have entered a period of gradual, steady growth, reversing a long-term downward trend in numbers, according to the latest membership statistics, published today.

Figures for 1978 published last year indicated that the church was beginning to reverse its long decline, although some of the figures in the past one year have shown a temporary upturn which did not appear to be a trend.

The 1979 figures not only confirmed the 1978 story of recovery, but also showed that almost all the indices of church membership and practice were moving upwards together.

There was a 12 per cent increase in baptisms over the year of one, a 5 per cent increase in Christmas communicants, a 2.3 per cent

increase in membership of electoral rolls; and a 1 per cent increase in regular Sunday church attendance, which was estimated as 1,254,000.

The statistics, published as an appendix to *The Church of England Year Book* for this year, support the tone of optimism of the book's preface.

The preface asks whether it is too fanciful to regard last year and this as the springtime of the church, given that the mood of the church and of Christian people in England was "strangely confident" in 1977-78, which gave rise to some anxiety.

"It becomes very difficult to plan our work if the Government does not express a view on recommendations made by ourselves and others within a reasonable time after delivery of the reports containing them."

Nor is the failure to act confined to proposals by the Law Commission, the report says. "A number of important law reform proposals made by other bodies during the last ten years or so have not been implemented and in some cases it is not even known whether they are accepted by the Government in principle."

Two examples in the law of tort are the recommendations by the Faulks committee on defamation, in 1975, and a number of those made by the Royal Commission on Civil

Commission says lack of political will to implement its reports gives reason for anxiety

Government rebuked for inaction on proposed law reforms

By a Staff Reporter

The Government was rebuked yesterday for failing to act on law reforms proposed by the Law Commission and other bodies.

The commission's annual report said: "Law reform is ultimately in the hands of Parliament and of the government of the day, and it will not progress unless there exists the necessary political will that it should."

Of all its unimplemented reports noted in last year's annual report, only one has been fully implemented, the commission says. There are eight reports outstanding from 1977-78, which give rise to some anxiety.

Liability and Compensation for Personal Injuries, chaired by Lord Pearson.

The absence of a policy decision on many of the recommendations in the Pearson report makes it impracticable for us to continue our work in that and related fields."

The commission points out that the Government is, on occasion, capable of very swift reaction. The commission's recommended reforms in its report on insurance law were welcomed in a consultative document by the Department of Trade within days of its publication.

The biggest difficulty is that implementation of most law reform involves legislation, and that takes up parliamentary and

officials' time, the commission adds.

Few days are available for law reform bills. Even consideration of proposals is put aside.

Among outstanding reports on which action is yet to be taken is one on criminal law, published in 1979, relating to interference with the course of justice, and one on co-ownership and occupation rights in the matrimonial home.

The commission concludes that although provision exists for a statutory and continuous review of the law, all that has been done is to create the basic machinery: the administrative and legislative means to make it effective are still wanting.

The report says that before

next October papers will be published on breach of confidence and illegitimacy, and working papers on the rights of access to neighbouring land, criminal libel and blasphemy.

On breach of confidence, the commission's report will propose replacing the existing law with a statutory duty backed up by a range of civil remedies.

The commission emphasizes that it is not practicable to recommend detailed legislation in all branches of confidence circumstances. Instead, it will propose a broad framework within which solutions to particular difficulties can be worked out.

The Law Commission: fifteen annual reports, 1979-80, House of Commons paper 161 (Stationery Office, £3.50).

Solicitors as High Court judges proposed

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

Solicitors should be able to become High Court judges, the Law Society says in a memorandum published today on the Supreme Court Bill, which is before Parliament.

The society notes that solicitors can become recorders and that after three years as recorders they can become circuit judges, who sit in the crown courts and county courts.

But although some solicitor circuit judges had sat as deputy High Court judges, they were not eligible for full appointment to the High Court bench.

Of 334 circuit judges, 19 are solicitors. The Bill perpetuates the rule against solicitors by providing that High Court judges must be barristers of at least 10 years' standing. The society is pressing for an amendment making all circuit judges eligible to become High Court judges.

It also calls for the removal of the barriers stopping solicitors from holding certain senior appointments. For example, the permanent secretary to the Lord Chancellor can only be a barrister.

In contrast, the post of Official Solicitor can be filled only by a solicitor. The society proposes that all senior legal posts should be available to both branches of the legal profession, except where they require appearing in the higher courts, which solicitors are not allowed to do.

Litigants in trials where the judge dies or becomes ill and cannot complete a case should not have to bear the legal costs wasted, the society says. The Treasury should have to pay those costs.

The death or disability of a judge was a failure of the court system, for which the Lord Chancellor was responsible, and was beyond the control of the parties to the case, who should not have to pay the costs.

The society also calls for defendants who are refused bail by magistrates to be given the right to appeal to crown court judges. Appeals against bail refusals from magistrates can go only to High Court judges.

A two-day conference on the disabled and national parks opened yesterday at the Calvert Trust's adventure centre for the disabled at Keswick, Cumbria.

Plan to alter maternity pay shelved

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

The Government has decided to shelve for at least two years a planned redistribution of maternity benefits. No action will be taken until the postponed employers' sick pay scheme has been put into operation; that scheme is not expected to be implemented until April, 1983.

In the meantime the Government will use the Social Security Bill to raise the maximum maternity pay for working women from 90 per cent of salary to 100 per cent. That is intended to compensate women receiving maternity pay for the loss of earnings-related supplement, to be abolished next January.

The Equal Opportunities Commission yesterday called for the new power to be implemented on the same date as the earnings-related supplement abolition, to avoid hardship among pregnant working women.

The further shelving of the Government's proposals was disclosed in a special report from the Commons Social Services Committee yesterday. The report reproduced a letter from Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services.

Mr Jenkin ruled out the committee's plea for an early and full review of the financial needs of pregnant women and the adequacy of the maternity benefits system.

"The Government takes the view that a re-examination of the arrangements for paying maternity allowance and maternity pay to working women is likely to be much more rewarding if put in hand after the new sick pay scheme has been operating for a while," Mr Jenkin wrote.

First Special Report from the Social Services Committee, Session 1980-81 (Stationery Office, £1.10).

Charities clash over £12m fund for the homeless

Our Religious Affairs
Correspondent

The Salvation Army and the Church of England, making their joint policy statement yesterday that they were about £1m short of the money they needed to maintain their networks of hostels for single, homeless people. At the same time another charity dealing in homelessness criticised the approach.

The dispute is about the creation of a £12m government fund to provide accommodation for the single homeless. Many hostels are old and gently need replacement, and would reduce places available by more than 8,000 in the next five years.

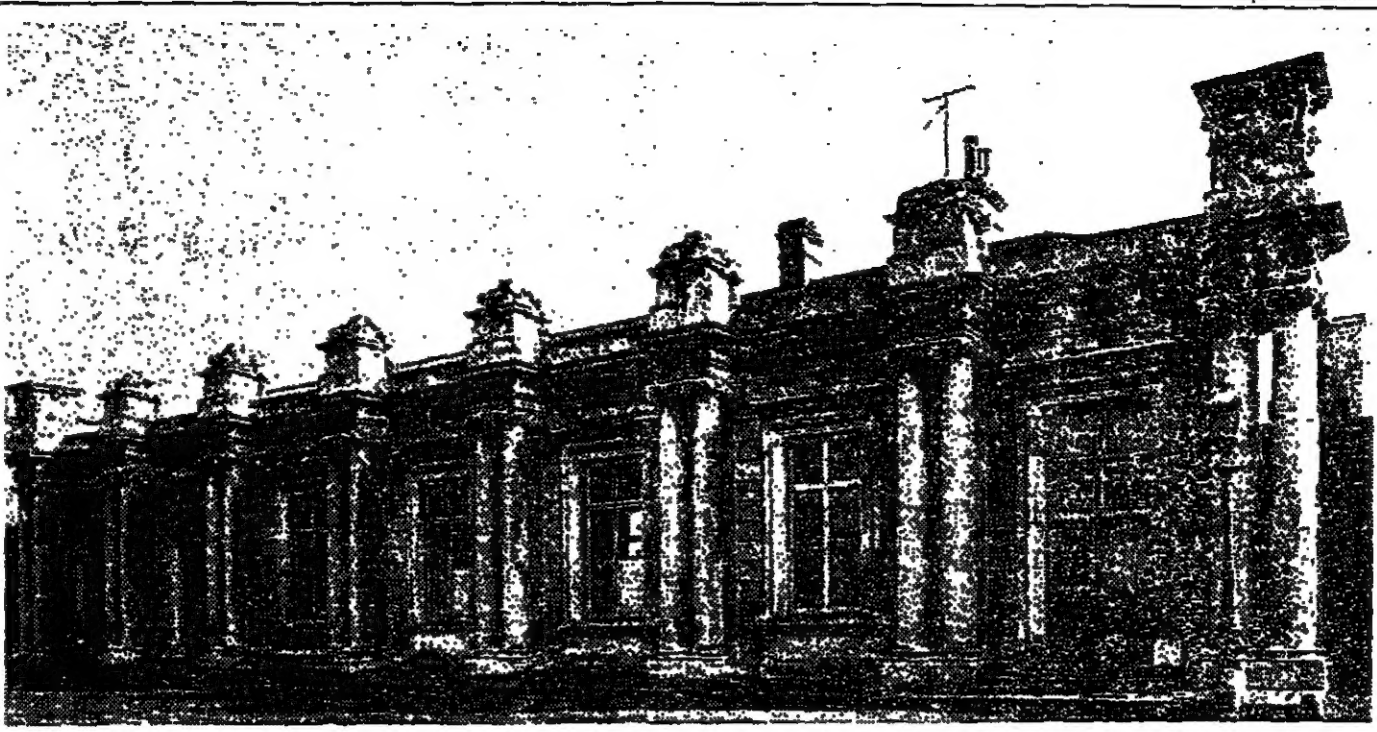
The organizations appealed for help at a press conference outside over the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, who said: "There

could not be a more serious domestic problem for this country than the degradation that comes from unemployment and homelessness."

But the Campaign for the Homeless and Rootless rebuked the Church Army and the Salvation Army for trying to perpetuate large institutional hostels.

The Rev David Moore, superintendent of the Bow Mission and the campaigning chairman, said: "I am shocked and saddened that the Church Army and the Salvation Army should so blatantly attempt to corner resources specifically earmarked for numerous small housing association projects."

Big institutions made the difficulties associated with homelessness worse, he said. Small, community-based projects enabled people to re-establish themselves.



End of the line: The Old Station at Newmarket, Suffolk, which is due to be demolished at the beginning of next month. The building, attributed to Philip Hardwick, is listed as a historic and architectural interest, and in grant-

ing consent last December for its demolition. Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said he hoped that it would be dismantled carefully so that as much of it as possible could be reerected and

displayed elsewhere. The Laughton Construction Company of 51 High Street, Brandon, Suffolk, which plans to redevelop the site, is still awaiting offers.

Health group methods criticized

By Arthur Osman
Birmingham
Correspondent

In its 13 years of existence, the Health Education Council has totally misconceived its mission, Lord Hunter of Newton, who is retiring as Vice-Chancellor of Birmingham University, said yesterday.

It is questioned whether any important results had been achieved by the council, whose mission, as he saw it, was to educate, not to research.

Speaking at the university, he said the council had survived to come a research-based discipline, using the techniques of a framework of established

Fine of £500 over radiation burns

From Our Correspondent
Whitehaven

British Nuclear Fuels Ltd was fined £500 at Whitehaven Magistrates Court, Cumbria, yesterday for failing to provide safe working conditions at its Windscale plant.

The company pleaded guilty to a charge under the Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974, over an incident in which a radiographer received three severe radiation burns to his hand while using an X-ray source to examine welds.

The magistrates were told that the worker, Mr Peter Salmon, of Whitehaven, could have lost his hand if the radiation dose had been higher. He received doses estimated at

2,000-2,500 rems to each burn on his hand.

The company faces a claim for compensation over the incident from Mr Salmon's union, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. It is the first time the nuclear plant has been prosecuted for a nuclear incident under the Health and Safety Act.

Mr Leslie Clark, for the prosecution listed a series of failures to observe regulations that had contributed to Mr Salmon being burnt. He said that when the X-ray source was examined some days after the incident a safety filter over the aperture was missing.

He added: "At the time of the incident BNF were having trouble meeting their work pro-

gramme and management allowed the recommended procedure in operating the machine to be overlooked.

"X-rays could be energized while the radiographer was still touching the machine head," he said. A warning on the device might not have been audible.

A control key used to isolate the machine for safety reasons was left in at all times. Of 20 X-ray sources in use at Windscale, an inspection showed that 12 had not been registered.

The burns could have necessitated amputation if they had been worse, but Mr Clark said: "It is unlikely there will be any long-term effects." Mr Salmon is back at work at the plant.

Nobel winners head drive to ban chemical weapons

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A group of eminent scientists is seeking to prevent British agreement to stockpile a new family of nerve gases and chemical weapons being developed in the United States.

The group includes four Nobel Prize winners, Sir Peter Medawar, FRS, Dr Dorothy Hodgkin, OM, FRS, Professor Maurice Wilkins, FRS, and Dr Frederick Sanger, FRS, who opened the campaign with a meeting at the House of Lords to announce the formation of the Russell Committee against Chemical Weapons.

The American Government

is to build a factory in Arkansas to manufacture the latest generation of nerve gas chemicals.

As well as petitioning the Government to oppose a chemical arms race, an appeal is being made to all scientists and technologists to reject any research associated with the production of such weapons.

A statement signed by 20 senior scientists suggests that Britain might establish depots for American chemical weapons, reactivate manufacturing in the United Kingdom or equip British forces with nerve gas weapons purchased abroad.

Trawlermen seek British fleet to process catches

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

Trawlermen's leaders appealed to the Government yesterday not to allow the dwindling distant-water fishing fleet to disappear. "The death sentence has been written, but not yet pronounced," the British Fishing Federation said. Senior members of the federation asked Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to consider creating a British processing fleet to replace the foreign vessels that buy British fish.

The number of British distant-water trawlers, defined as vessels more than 140 ft long, has fallen from more than 170 to fewer than 60 since Britain joined the EEC in 1973.

Mr Powell gives another warning of violence in attack on nationality Bill

By Philip Webster
Parliamentary Staff

Mr Enoch Powell gave a new warning yesterday of future conflict in Britain resulting from the apprehension of the indigenous population about the growth of an immigrant population with dual loyalties and backgrounds.

In a speech echoing many of his past controversial statements on the subject, Mr Powell, Official Ulster Unionist MP for Down, South, was attacking the nationality Bill's provision that children born to parents "settled" in the United Kingdom should have British citizenship.

He had moved an amendment in the Bill's standing committee to delete it, arguing that it was a charter for widespread dual nationality. His amendment was rejected by 18 votes to three.

Mr Powell said: "The greatest apprehension and uncertainty in our society is among the people who have no other home and no other nationality than Britain. They think they see that home and that nation being radically altered and their environment fundamentally changed by the progressive and apparently inexorable growth of a population whose dual loyalties and backgrounds we have been discussing in this committee."

"They see, and they see rightly, that that population in the foreseeable future will make up a third of the population of many of our great cities."

He said the danger for the future lay in the apprehensions and insecurity of those who thought they were British and thought they knew what their nation was.

He added: "I cannot believe—I would if I could—that the constitution of our society will continue to develop, as foreseeable it must over the coming decades, without an outcome in terms of conflict."

"I ask myself if the apprehensions, mutual insecurity, mutual jealousy, and fear for the future should issue in physical violence in the future, should we be better placed to cope with that if we had our minds further opened up to the growth of that population or if we had acknowledged their separate nationhood?"

Indian opposition: The Indian Government said yesterday that it would take a firm stand on Britain's nationality Bill (Reuters reports from Delhi). Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, is likely to raise the matter when Mrs Margaret Thatcher visits India in April.

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WEST EUROPE

Spanish media shuns terrorist ultimatum on kidnapped consuls

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Feb 26

Spanish news media have continued to ignore almost completely an ultimatum from Basque terrorists to publish reports about alleged police brutality as a condition for the release of the three consuls they kidnapped last Thursday.

The plight of the consuls of Austria, El Salvador and Uruguay, kidnapped from their homes in the Basque country by the political-military wing of the outlawed ETA separatist organization was almost forgotten in the excitement caused by the attempted purchase which failed on Tuesday.

ETA said, in a communiqué on Monday, that the consuls' release depended on publication and broadcasts of reports about police brutality. It insisted that Spain's main newspapers and radio and television networks broadcast the full text of a 1980 report by Amnesty International, another report allegedly prepared by the Basque regional Parliament and colour photographs which purportedly show injuries to the body of a suspected Basque extremist who died after nine days of police interrogation.

So far, few Spanish newspapers have even bothered to explain whether they intend to comply or why they will not, and none of them has complied in full. Nor has the state-run radio and television network or private radio networks.

One exception was the San Sebastián daily *El Diario Vasco*, which today published an Amnesty International report, plus two photographs of the allegedly tortured man and an article summing up complaints by organizations and individuals about alleged brutal treatment by police. It published a leading article explaining that it was doing so in the hope of saving the hostages' lives.

The respected Madrid daily, *El País*, reminded its readers that it printed extensive extracts from the Amnesty International report in its edition of last December 3.

The Bilbao daily, *Deia*, which reflects the opinions of the powerful Basque Nationalist Party, said that in the past it had published summaries of reports, including the Amnesty International document, and it did not feel obliged to reprint the same material.

Malta Bill strikes at rule of law, jurists claim

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Feb 26

The International Commission of Jurists said today that the code of Organization and Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, now under consideration by the Parliament of Malta, "strikes at the basic principles of the rule of law".

The commission pointed out that the Bill proposed to establish a government-appointed body of five members which would "threaten the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession". Moreover it would severely reduce opportunities for citizens to chal-

lenge a government decision before the courts.

The Government of Malta regards the Bill as an instrument for effecting "a comprehensive reform of the judicial system". Dispute over wrecks: The Maltese Government is considering withdrawing from the Council of Europe, Mr Dom Dromi, the Prime Minister, told Parliament in Valletta today.

He gave as a reason the council's reluctance to discuss the dispute between Malta and Britain over the removal of Second World War bombs and wrecks around the island. — Agency France-Press.



Spain's new Prime Minister and Señora Calvo Sotelo with their eight children Pablo, Andres, José Marie, Victor, Pedro, Pilar, Juan and Leopoldo.

Spain takes steps to prevent further coup attempts

From Richard Wigg
Madrid, Feb 26

Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo swore before King Juan Carlos today "to protect and ensure that others protect" Spain's democratic Constitution when he took the oath of office as Prime Minister.

The ceremony took place in an atmosphere of marked nervousness as the extent of Monday's failed coup sank deeper into the general consciousness. This was noticeable today, both in political circles and in the higher echelons of the Army.

The Prime Minister's first overriding task, as he described it last night, is to steady the nation by drawing the lessons from Monday's seizure of the Cortes and so eliminate the possibility of a future military takeover.

"There is only one Army in Spain, loyal and obedient to the King, not two one loyal and one wanting to stage a coup", Lieutenant-General Ricardo

Arozarena, declared publicly when he took over today as the fourth military region in Catalonia. His predecessor in Barcelona has been moved to replace Lieutenant-General Milans del Bosch, leader of the failed coup in Valencia.

The general nervousness also obliged the joint chiefs of staffs in Madrid to deny a series of rumours today and even spike some before they arose. For instance, they took the unusual step of explaining beforehand that two battalions of tanks would be returning through Madrid later today from manoeuvres in the Aragon region which were started before Monday's events. There was absolutely no reason for public alarm, they said.

The exact role played on Monday night by the elite was crucial in any military takeover of the capital, is now under investigation. This is one of the main matters for con-

sideration by Colonel Ignacio Díez de Aguilar, the military's investigating magistrate, who is now inquiring into the identity of those responsible for the plot.

As the Prime Minister prepared his Cabinet list, the four main political parties and the trade union confederation today issued a call for a mass silent demonstration tomorrow in support of democracy.

This is likely to be a test for the public mood of mingled fear, shock and possibly even some indifference under the impact of Monday's events. The demonstrations are to take place in Madrid, Valencia and Barcelona. In the Basque country, the national parties have also ordered demonstrations, but the Basque extreme nationalists want their own counter-demonstration.

Señor Felipe Gonzalez, leader of the Socialists, the biggest opposition party, said last night that the Prime Minister had

made "a grave error" in refusing his offer to join a coalition and help defend Spain's threatened democratic institutions. Señor Calvo Sotelo is composing his Cabinet entirely from members of his own Centre Democratic Union party.

He argues that long negotiations would be required for a broad coalition, and these would not be possible at so critical a juncture. He maintains that his own party, now backed by 18 votes from the moderate Catalans and the right-wing Democratic Coalition, will be well able to consolidate democracy.

However, the Socialists insist that the new Cabinet must be made up solely of democratic conviction and should not include those converted to democracy in the last years of Francoism. This dispute is likely to remain a leading issue in the coming months, and it is with this warning in his ears that the Prime Minister has to decide on the crucial appoint-

ments to the Ministries of Defence and the Interior.

There were understandably highly emotional scenes when the Cortes reconvened yesterday. Señor Landelino Lavilla, the Speaker, who read a telegram from Mme Veil, president of the European Parliament, praising the Cortes for having served the cause of European democracy, was later reduced to tears as he reassured the authority of Spain's freely elected Parliament.

General Manuel Gutiérrez, the outgoing Deputy Prime Minister in charge of defence matters, who though over 70, fought to take the pistol away from Colonel Telero on Monday, was applauded and then kissed by women MPs.

King Juan Carlos has granted Señor Adolfo Suárez, the outgoing Prime Minister, the title of Duke of Suárez.

Dispute over equality follows death sentence

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Feb 26

There are now seven men in French prisons under sentence of death awaiting the final decision of the Cour de Cassation, the highest appeal court, and a possible presidential reprieve.

This is the highest number since 1965, when four were retried and three reprieved. There may be more in coming months if the present trend of juries towards greater severity continues.

Yesterday, after seven and a half hours, the jury of the assizes of the Val de Marne, south-west of Paris, returned a verdict of death against Yves Maupetit, aged 32, and of life, Terriel, aged 50.

They were found guilty of the murder of three people in 1977 and 1978 in particularly harrowing circumstances. The judges, the jury, the reporters and the public were spared none of the gruesome details of the crimes.

The trial was held in the ultra-modern court at Créteil, the new town south-west of Paris, and close-ups of the mutilated bodies of the victims and of their ransacked homes, were projected on television screens.

The Créteil verdict has given a further twist to the unending controversy in France over the death penalty. It was, many commentators have pointed out, a paradoxical and unlikely outcome. Both defendants emerged, through the five-day proceedings, as equally guilty of the charges against them.

But Mme Terriel was spared the death sentence, most commentators agreed. Both because she was a woman. The last woman to be sentenced to death was in 1973, in the island of Réunion and the last to be guillotined was in 1949, at Angers.

Since then women have been systematically reprieved. It is probable, after the Créteil verdict, that no woman will ever be sentenced to death in France again.

"This discrimination in the face of the guillotine is no less shocking," *Le Quotidien de Paris* comments today, "than discrimination over wages or employment. If the crimes of Maupetit called for no other response than death, the same was true of Terriel. Or vice versa."

M Maupetit pleaded to the last that he had not killed. Mme Terriel maintained that she had only killed one of the victims.

Closely linked with the controversy over the death penalty is the problem of popular juries, who have been responsible for the recent spate of death sentences. Since the reform of 1978, which was adopted unanimously by Parliament and regarded as a step towards greater democracy, jurors are no longer chosen from among notables, retired professional people or local officials on a list drawn up by the authorities.

In the past, juries tended to be predominantly rural and conservative. Now they are much more truly representative of a cross-section of French society, and therefore reflect its fears and instincts.

Dutch Labour Party call to bar cruise missiles

Amsterdam, Feb 26. — A

future Dutch coalition government must play an important role nationally and internationally in the political movement that is against a new, rising cold war atmosphere and rearmament," he said.

His comments reflected the majority view in the powerful socialist movement, but they did not touch on the nuclear controversy that threatens the position of Mr Joop den Uyl, the Labour Party leader.

While a majority of the local unions favour immediate disarmament of all six nuclear task forces, Mr den Uyl wants to retain one or two to give the Dutch a stake in future international disarmament negotiations.

Referring to the 48 cruise missiles that NATO wants to deploy in the Netherlands as part of its European nuclear modernization plan, he said: "The Labour Party in government will be an absolute guarantee that the cruise missiles

will not come to the Netherlands."

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West German standards place stress on children

School system blamed for suicides

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Feb 26

The tragedy is so frequent it hardly makes more than a few lines in the papers: a 13-year-old girl shoots herself; a 14-year-old boy hangs himself in his bedroom; another throws himself under a train.

The reason is depressingly familiar. One has had a bad report at school, another cannot face an examination, a third is afraid to tell his parents he has to repeat a year.

Now young West German teachers have accused the education system, with its "marks and performance cult" of being partly responsible for this "mass drama". They have listed chilling figures. Between 500 and 700 schoolchildren commit suicide each year; 18,000 young people attempt to kill themselves; 600 die from drugs.

Leaders of an association of young German teachers told a press conference this week that the education system failed to

pay enough attention to the individual personalities and problems of children.

"They appealed to the education authorities to rethink the aims of education. Teachers, they said, were trained simply to transmit knowledge. They were not taught to encourage the personal development of each child."

The association, an offshoot of one of the main teachers' unions, represents 30,000 young elementary and secondary school teachers and, without doubt, the views of millions of parents.

In Germany, where paper qualifications and examination results often count for more than actual ability, success at school is essential for success in life.

The stress on both children and their anxious parents has increased in recent years with growing youth unemployment and the need to compete even harder for jobs.

After a thorough study of the problem a few years ago the

Federal Education Ministry tried to encourage a more relaxed, less achievement-oriented attitude with a campaign "Parents at School". But the *Länder*, which actually run the schools, took little notice and Ministry officials consider it a failure.

A clue to the attitude still prevailing in many schools was given recently by the president of another union which represents grammar school teachers Herr Clemens Christians. He claimed that standards required from school children were slipping badly and that they should be made to take their school work more seriously.

"Work should not be fun and free time should not be a serious matter," he said. "Schools had dropped particularly badly," he said, in North Rhine-Westphalia where children were judged according to their effort and progress as well as their marks.

Worse still, the number of words children were expected to learn in English, he said, had been reduced during the past 10 years by one-third.

20 police hurt in clash with Berlin squatters

From Gretel Spitzer
Berlin, Feb 26

Twenty policemen were injured, seven seriously, in a fight to prevent the occupation of a vacant house by squatters last night.

Shop windows were smashed and 16 police vehicles were damaged during the clash between about 300 squatters and sympathizers and 100 police in the Schöneberg district of the city.

The present policy in Berlin is to try to prevent any further occupation of empty houses

Concern over collapse of five hotels in tremor zone

From Mario Modiano
Athens, Feb 26

Life in Athens went back to normal today—traffic jams and all—as thousands of inhabitants who had fled to the countryside after Tuesday's severe earthquake, returned to their homes and work, evidently reassured by the relative calm in the past 24 hours.

The Athens Observatory announced that between 6 pm yesterday and 7 am today it had recorded only 130 post-earthquake tremors, compared with 632 in the preceding 18 hours. They measured between 3 and 4.7 on the Richter scale, but were too faint for the Athenians to notice.

The death toll has risen to 16; six in the Athens area, the others in the region of the Gulf of Corinth where the epicentre of the earthquake was. Most of the victims died either of heart attacks or in accidents

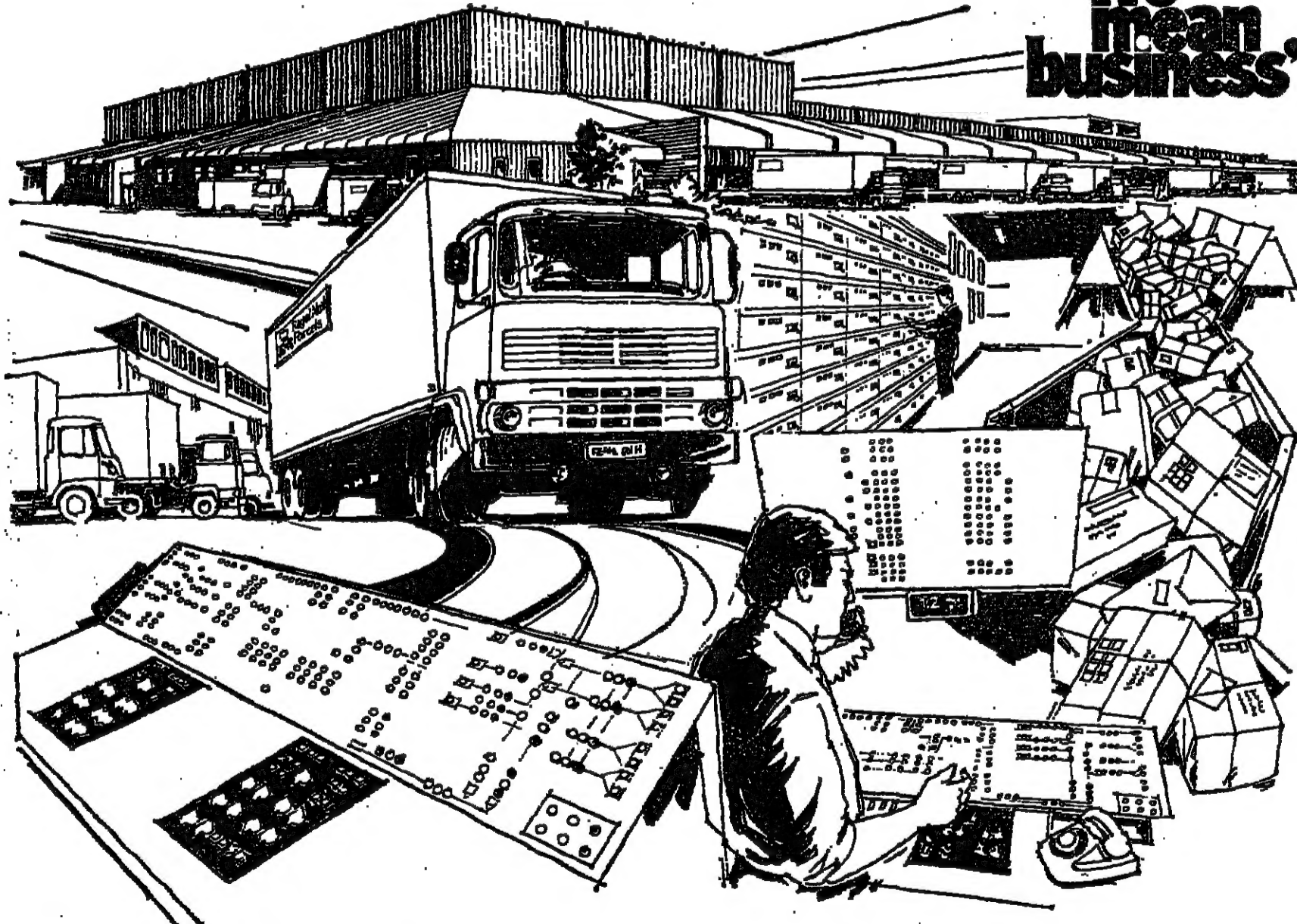
while trying to flee their homes.

Rescue workers were still searching the debris of 1 vacant eight-floor hotel Vrachati, west of Corinth which collapsed burying it found the watchman, his wife and one son. The total injured people taken to hospital did not exceed 50.

About 3,000 buildings sustained some damage, mainly in the vicinity of the Gulf of Corinth, where the earthquake was most severe. More than 1,000 tents were sent to the stricken area.

Some concern has been expressed over the collapse of many as five hotel, furniture and other items were sent to the stricken area.

In a Piraeus suburb large blocks of flats built 1934 for refugee families, declared unfit for habitation.



Royal Mail Parcels—Investing in the Future

The new Royal Mail Yorkshire Parcel Centre is now at work, serving the whole of Yorkshire and North Humberside. It can handle 240,000 parcels a day—twice the capacity of the previous one.

It is technology-intensive; sorting systems are all mechanical; controls are electronic; there is autonomous 24-channel radio-paging; and much more—powerful testimony to the fast, efficient service now on offer.

The Royal Mail is investing in the future. This is the twentieth mechanised Royal Mail Parcel Centre to come into operation—a £13m investment. Now is the time to find out what the modern Royal Mail Parcels service can do for you.

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collection, special pricing arrangements and regular billing with no stamps or postage meters. We can collect your customers' money for you, provide documentation—even arrange for the return of 'on-approval' goods.

Royal Mail offers the largest, yet the most flexible parcels service in the country, handling more parcels than all other carriers put together—with twenty times more acceptance points than our nearest competitor. Find out more about us now—just return the coupon or ask your operator for FREEFONE 2325.

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OVERSEAS

Soviet jammers face increase in radio broadcasts by BBC

By Ian Bradley

The BBC is to launch a new language service for Afghanistan as well as increase its broadcasts to the Soviet Union in an effort to counter jamming. Announcing the developments in overseas broadcasting, Mr Douglas Murreridge, managing director of the BBC's External Services, also revealed yesterday that Radio France International (RFI) has been asked by the French Government to submit plans for a round the clock world service in French modelled on the BBC World Service.

The new BBC language service will be in Pashto which is spoken by about 18m people in Afghanistan and also on the North-West frontier of Pakistan. The BBC already broadcasts in Farsi, the other language widely understood in Afghanistan. The new service will start in the summer.

From the end of March the corporation will transmit in Russian for an extra 30 minutes a day. That will allow a restructuring of the output to the Soviet Union to provide a continuous five-hour block of programmes every night from seven until midnight, Moscow time. "We will be doing this on an experimental basis. We hope it will help the listeners and confuse the jammers", Mr Murreridge said.

He also said that before the Soviet Union re-imposed jamming of the BBC's Russian Services last August, it had an estimated 13 million listeners. Although there was little prospect of an early end to the jamming there was evidence that the Russian service could still be heard outside major conurbations. The BBC's

English language world service is not jammed by the Russians. Its Turkish service is also to be increased from an hour to 90 minutes a day in order to meet the greatly increased demand for information since the military take-over in Turkey.

Mr Murreridge said that the increase in services, which had been decided after consultation with the Foreign Office, did not preclude a new, expansionist phase for BBC External Services.

"In the past year we have sustained a cut of £3.1m which has come out of capital and we continue to live under the constant threat of cuts", he said. "It would obviously be unrealistic to ask for more money but we do ask that our existing services be maintained".

He said it was ironic that the BBC, widely acknowledged as the leading overseas broadcasting organisation in the world, should be struggling to maintain its present service when other countries, in both West Europe and the Eastern block, were greatly expanding their external broadcasting.

For example French Council of Ministers decided on Monday to authorise the building of a relay station in French Guiana to cover Central and Latin America and the United States.

As for the expansion of overseas broadcasting by the Eastern block, Mr Murreridge said the Soviet Union now had 140 transmitters in operation compared with the BBC's 80. Some BBC transmitters were now more than 40 years old and have considerably less power than those used by other countries.

Israel says Egyptians slow in cooperating

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Feb 26

The first anniversary of the historic exchange of ambassadors between Israel and Egypt was celebrated on a sour note today with an official statement from the Israeli Foreign Ministry outlining numerous alleged "shortcomings" in the promised normalisation.

"After a year of experience with the normalisation process, it may be said that slow progress has been made in Israeli-Egyptian relations", the ministry complained. "This progress could have been more substantial if Egypt had been more forthcoming. War has been achieved, mainly the result of initiative and untiring efforts on the part of Israel, the Egyptian attitude fluctuating between passivity and opposition."

The strongly worded document accused Egypt of being in contravention of the Camp David accord by attempting to link normalisation with progress in the Palestinian autonomy talks, and by using delaying tactics in advance of Israel's final pull-back from Sinai due in April, 1982.

Blaming the Egyptian authorities for discouraging travel to Israel by making passports and permits difficult to obtain, the statement noted that since a memorandum on tourism was agreed last March, less than 1,500 Egyptian nationals had visited Israel compared with over 25,000 Israeli visitors to Egypt.

The Foreign Ministry criticized Egypt for procrastination in ratifying agreements on trade, cultural exchanges and civil aviation. It also cited an Egyptian tendency, particularly

at the sub-presidential level, to deliberately slow down the progress and rate of normalisation.

In the crucial field of economic cooperation, the Israelis point out bitterly that the public sector of the Egyptian economy — which accounts for about 85 per cent of the whole — is still not permitted to trade with Israel.

Figures released last month by the Israeli Ministry of Commerce show that since the signing of the peace treaty in March 1979, Israeli exports to Egypt were estimated at only £4.5m. Precise details of trading are difficult to obtain, but the largest single deal is believed to have involved a consignment of hatching eggs and chicks flown from Tel Aviv to Cairo last November.

The clearest explanation of Egypt's reluctance to participate wholeheartedly in normalisation was given last November, when Vice-President Hosni Mubarak placed the blame directly on Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister. He said that Egyptians could not be expected to open their arms to Israelis while settlements were being expanded in the occupied territories and after the law declaring Jerusalem as an integral part of Israel's capital.

In the ensuing months, the Israeli settlement programme has been further accelerated, but no reference is made to this in the three-page document issued today in Jerusalem.

On the positive side, the Israelis refer to a number of "assets in the interim balance sheet" in addition to the establishment of full diplomatic ties and the regular functioning of both embassies.

Islamic revival movement suspected of terrorism

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Feb 26

Israelis were alarmed by the exposure of an alleged Israeli Arab terrorist ring movement, an Islamic revival movement. Scores of Arab citizens of Israel were arrested in villages along the pre-1967 armistice lines over the past few weeks, and arms caches were seized, but the security authorities maintained a news black out until last night.

Some of the lesser members charged only with belonging to an illegal organisation have already been sent to prison, court, one year by a military court, the trial of the main suspects is to begin next week, also before military judges and behind closed doors. They are accused of terrorist activities, illegal possession of weapons, and incitement.

Israeli sources said that the ring was politically motivated but that the leaders adopted the cloak of Islamic revival to benefit from the popularity it gained since Ayatollah Khomeini ousted the Shah in Iran. Young Israeli Muslims are

attending mosque services in numbers, growing beards, and observing other religious practices.

Professor Moshe Sharon, of the Hebrew University, formerly the Prime Minister's adviser on Arab affairs, said in an interview: "The Islamic commitment means they are not seeking rights or the good will of the Israeli rulers, but to end the abnormal condition of Muslims being ruled by non-Muslims. It means stagnation (holly war)".

Mr Amnon Linn, specialist on Arab affairs in the parliamentary foreign affairs committee, advised on Arab affairs, said in an interview: "The Islamic commitment means they are not seeking rights or the good will of the Israeli rulers, but to end the abnormal condition of Muslims being ruled by non-Muslims. It means stagnation (holly war)".

He added that the PLO had ordered for the next round. The countdown would begin after Israel completed the evacuation of Sinai next year.

Police kill five in Gujarat caste riots

Delhi, Feb 26.—Police opened fire on rioting crowds killing five people, and arrested nearly 3,000 doctors, students and medical workers today in the western Indian state of Gujarat, the Press Trust of India reported.

At least 25 people have been killed in Gujarat since students began protests last month against reservation of places for lower castes in medical colleges.

In Ahmedabad, the state's largest city, some well-known local surgeons were among the 3,000 arrested when they tried to defy a ban on demonstrations, the Press Trust said.

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, deplored the caste violence in Gujarat and told parliament it was her Government's moral and constitutional responsibility to advance the educational interest of backward and lower castes.



Shoulder to shoulder: President Castro of Cuba is flanked in Moscow yesterday by his Soviet comrade, President Brezhnev

Mr Brezhnev pledges his support for Cuba

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Feb 26

President Brezhnev today met President Fidel Castro of Cuba, who is attending the twenty-sixth Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, and assured him of continued Soviet support in the face of "another anti-Cuban campaign" launched by the United States.

During his speech on Tuesday, Dr Castro condemned American support for the ruling junta in El Salvador and said his country would not back down in the face of aggression. Threats by "imperialist Yankees" to intervene in El Salvador, he said, demonstrated Washington's intention to impose its own political regime throughout the Western hemisphere.

According to the Tass summary of his speech, he accused "imperialists" of malicious lies against communist countries, trying to prove that events in Central America were not the result of the "rightful indignation" of the oppressed but the result of international conspiracies.

A Soviet spokesman said he had also denied that Cuba was

sending arms to guerrillas in El Salvador, and declared that any move by the United States to block Cuban arms exports to that country would be senseless as there were no Cuban ships in the area.

An East German magazine, published in East Berlin today, said liberation movements such as the one in El Salvador could expect aid from the Soviet block in whatever form and quantity they want. The weekly magazine, *Weltbühne*, said that, if it were not for the Soviet Union and other socialist states, most liberation struggles would be doomed to failure.

The 5,000 delegates to the party congress today unanimously approved the report delivered on Monday by President Brezhnev and formally instructed all party organisations to be guided by its provisions.

Their vote ends what has been officially termed the "discussion" of the report, drawn up by the policy-making Central Committee, which sets the guidelines and priorities for Soviet policy and development for the next five years. Tomorrow Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the

Prime Minister, will deliver a more detailed analysis of the economic outlook.

The congress also voted to redraft the party's programme, a fundamental statement of aims and intentions drawn up 20 years ago under Khrushchev.

This document has become an embarrassment, since it laid down specific dates by which Soviet production and output were to have overtaken those in the West. It also predicted that by 1981 the Russians would have easily outstripped the Americans in production of consumer goods.

The resolution ordered the Central committee to make "the necessary amendments and additions" to the present programme so that it "correctly" mirrored the laws of world social development.

The congress also explained that "new phenomena" had appeared on the world scene, which can be taken to mean that the Soviet Communist Party will now bend its ideology to give greater fraternal recognition to national liberation movements that do not fall into the strictly orthodox communist mould.

The proceedings of the past

three days have been far removed from any Western concept of a debate. After Mr Brezhnev's lengthy document, members of the Politburo and then party secretaries from the 15 constituent republics of the Soviet Union delivered speeches.

Without exception, each praised the report as far-sighted and all-embracing, spoke of the achievements of the Communist Party, and paid glowing personal tribute to the 74-year-old Soviet leader. Local party secretaries dwelt on economic developments in their areas, but few raised any of the problems and shortcomings which dwell on with such frankness by Mr Brezhnev.

They were followed by the leaders of the East European delegations, then by others from among the 123 delegations present.

There have been no criticisms of Soviet policy, though Poland's difficulties have been a strong theme in most foreign delegates speeches, as well as defence of the Soviet Union against American charges of backing international terrorism. Moscow Daily, page 14 Letters, page 15

Mr Reagan draws a thin red line

Washington
Commentary
Patrick Brogan

President Reagan has decided to draw the line in El Salvador. Thus far and no farther will the communist powers be permitted to expand their influence in the Western world. It is all rather puzzling for foreigners and for Americans, too, for whom El Salvador has never been a matter of great concern.

Twenty years ago President Kennedy tried to reverse the verdict of history and overthrow the communist government in Cuba. That was the first communist state that had not been established by force of Russian arms or in a country contiguous with existing communist states—and the first in the Americas.

Mr Kennedy failed and there have been many other communist states set up since then in various parts of the world. The thing about El Salvador is that if the United States is really determined to stop communism there, it will succeed. There is no powerful and ruthless neighbour, like North Vietnam, to serve as a base of operations for the rebels.

El Salvador is not immense and has only 1.5 million people, the very opposite, with a population of about six million in a country the size of Wales.

Neither is its government burdened with a dictator whose personal fortunes are indelibly bound up with the regime. The Sandinistas won in Nicaragua because they were the only possible alternative to the Somoza. Castro might have been defeated if Batista had been removed in time. If the Shah had abdicated four years ago, a moderate government might now rule in Tehran while the ayatollah told his beads in Qom.

The Salvadorean dictator, General Humberto Romero, was overthrown 16 months ago. El Salvador is on the west coast of the isthmus, with right-wing neighbours to the north and east. The insurgents can be supplied only by arms smuggled overland through Honduras, by air or by sea.

Their only base is Nicaragua,

whose government and economy are very susceptible to American pressure and disapproval. It is all rather puzzling for foreigners and for Americans, too, for whom El Salvador has never been a matter of great concern.

The Americans will send the Salvadorean army all the arms and other supplies it needs to fight the insurgents. And in such circumstances that it is all rather puzzling for foreigners and for Americans, too, for whom El Salvador has never been a matter of great concern.

There are other places, however, about which they care a great deal and where Mr Reagan, emboldened by his easy victory in Central America, will find himself in sudden and dangerous confrontation if he tries to repeat his success.

El Salvador is a sham issue but, to take the most extreme case, Poland is real. Mr Haig at least knows better than to draw the wrong conclusion from an early and minor success, but there are others who do not.

The Soviet Union is not going to make great efforts to establish communism in El Salvador. In 1974 they abandoned President Allende to his fate and they care much less about El Salvador.

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who said he had been posted to El Salvador by the Sandinistas, the ruling left-wing group in Nicaragua.

It is thought that there are 5,000 "Hardcore" guerrillas plus some 10,000 supporters. Against them, the security forces number nearly 16,000; not a large enough differential to wipe out a determined insurgent movement, according to conventional military theory.

The Americans probably do have the capability to prevent a guerrilla victory but it is hard to envisage them wiping out the leftists altogether.

Meanwhile, life continues with surprising normality in this attractive country, whose violent history has left it with the capability of shrugging off conditions most people would find intolerable. Traffic circulates busily in the tree-lined streets of the capital, snaking through the volcanic hills.

A curfew, rigidly enforced, begins at 9 every night. The people go to their homes, listen for shots and, at daybreak, look to see if the morning has brought any more roadside corpses.

Opposition MPs in Iran defiant

From Tony Allaway
Tehran, Feb 26

Four Iranian opposition parliamentarians told a mass rally in Tehran today that they would not bow to pressure and start criticising the dictatorial tendencies they saw in Iran.

"It is the reasoning of dictatorial regimes to stop people from criticism under various pretexts... pretexts also used by the Shah's regime", declared Mr Mehdi Bazargan, who was overthrown as Prime Minister by religious fundamentalists in 1979.

"This revolution belongs to us... we have always been against monopolism", he said, in an obvious reference to the dominant, clergy-led Islamic Republican Party. "We see theocracy as the enemy of freedom, Islam and independence."

Mr Bazargan and the other three deputies, Mr Ibrahim Yazdi, Mr Hashem Sabbaghian and Mr Yadollah Sahabi, are all members of the Iran Liberation Movement, the first post-revolutionary standards. The meeting, the first "opposition" rally of its kind for some time, reflected their recent moves to reenter active politics after being put in disgrace by the seizure of the American embassy.

The rally itself must have disappointed them, however. Only about 20,000 people were in the sports stadium where it was held, a small number by revolutionary standards. Among them were small groups of people clearly supporting the Islamic fundamentalist line. They held aloft pictures of Ayatollah Beheshti, the Islamic Republican Party leader.

There were many scuffles during the meeting but police, some wearing riot helmets, quickly ejected troublemakers with surprising efficiency.

who said he had been posted to El Salvador by the Sandinistas, the ruling left-wing group in Nicaragua.

It is thought that there are 5,000 "Hardcore" guerrillas plus some 10,000 supporters. Against them, the security forces number nearly 16,000; not a large enough differential to wipe out a determined insurgent movement, according to conventional military theory.

The Americans probably do have the capability to prevent a guerrilla victory but it is hard to envisage them wiping out the leftists altogether.

Meanwhile, life continues with surprising normality in this attractive country, whose violent history has left it with the capability of shrugging off conditions most people would find intolerable. Traffic circulates busily in the tree-lined streets of the capital, snaking through the volcanic hills.

A curfew, rigidly enforced, begins at 9 every night. The people go to their homes, listen for shots and, at daybreak, look to see if the morning has brought any more roadside corpses.

American plane crashes in sea

Manila, Feb 26.—An American transport aircraft crashed into the South China Sea shortly after take off from the Subic Bay base in the Philippines today, killing 23 of the 24 passengers on board, a United States Navy spokesman said.

The C130 military transport was carrying American, Philippine, Australian and New Zealand personnel. The aircraft was en route to a training exercise in the Philippines.

The plane crashed into the sea about 10 miles off the coast of Subic Bay. The aircraft was carrying 24 passengers and a crew of four. All but one passenger were killed.

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No end seen to El Salvador terror

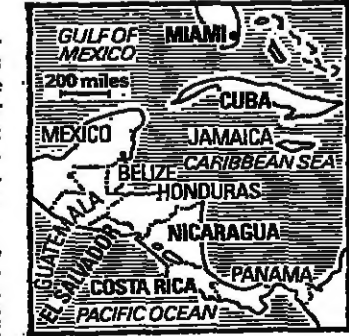
Continued from page 1

The present 19 American instructors (the word advisers has been out of favour since Vietnam) with the El Salvador Army will be increased to about 50. The fleet of six large American helicopters used to transport troops to trouble areas will be quadrupled.

The Americans will help with the creation of a 2,000-man rapid response battalion to be deployed as soon as incidents occur. Deliveries of American arms, already arriving almost daily here, will be sustained and possibly stepped up.

The irony is that President José Napoleon Duarte, one of the few remaining moderates in a junta that has moved sharply to the right in recent months, is lukewarm about this extra military help.

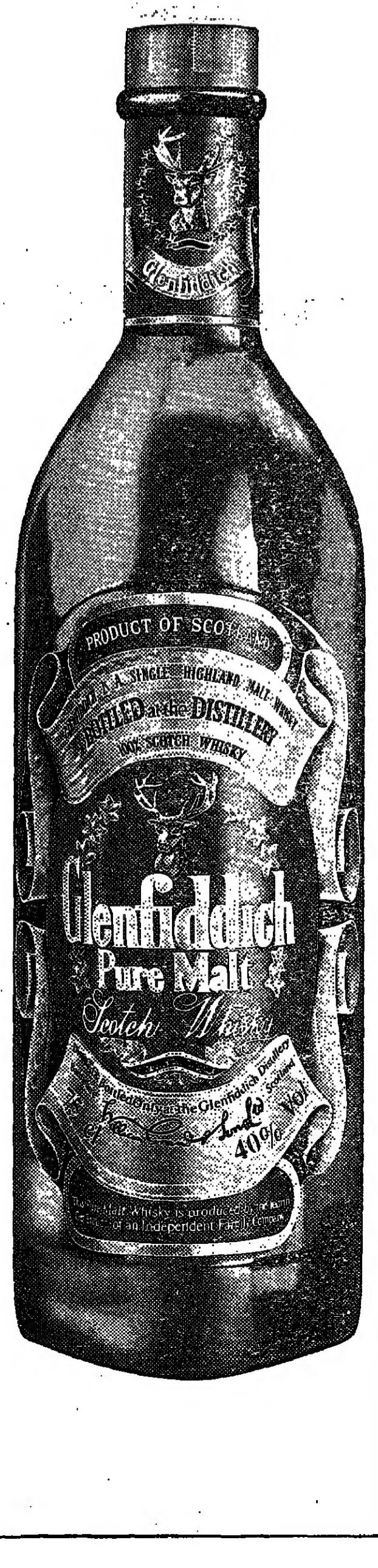
It is of no use to have the greatest and best army in the world if the people are dying from hunger, he told *The New York Times* last week. He wants economic aid to help ensure the success of his Government's reforms.



arms are an important element in the Americans' argument that they must give more military support. It is impossible to confirm their veracity, although when the authorities here show captured guerrilla weapons they are mostly antique and sometimes homemade.

Some believe that the guerrillas are saving their communist arms for use in a new offensive in the spring. This week the authorities produced evidence for their charge that foreign troops have been imported; a Nicaraguan prisoner

Purchasing a bottle of Glenfiddich now, could save an economy later.



Mr Foot wants PM aware of concern about El Salvador

It would be deeply offensive if arms supplies and American intervention were to go into El Salvador. The Prime Minister's reaction, said Mr. Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Ebbw Vale), during question time, to Mr Foot was "William Whitelaw, Home Secretary answered for the Prime Minister: Will he consider it as a matter of extreme urgency for this country and for the world at large? He said no." Mr Foot said, "The Prime Minister, whether she is in the White House or not, cannot ignore the fact of the crisis in this country and the crisis where in Europe about the supply of arms to El Salvador. It is clear that huge extra supplies of military equipment are being prepared to be sent to the United States to El Salvador."

"Would he take into account that many of us in this country and elsewhere have been so shocked and as deeply offensive if such supplies and American intervention were to go into El Salvador, that they would react by acts of terrorism and reaction?" (Loud Labour cheers.)

Mr Whitelaw (Penrith and the Border, C): The Prime Minister is not going to say anything about this country and in this House. She went to America very well aware of these facts. They are going to be discussed with her discussions with the President.

I think Mr Foot would be the first to appreciate that for me to

said about a tragic and difficult situation at a time of such delicacy would be most unwise. I do not want to say more than that.

Mr Foot: Surely he can undertake to convey to the Prime Minister, the feeling in this House of Ministers and Members of Parliament of us are concerned about freedom if some MPs on the Government side are not.

Will the British Government be supporting the proposal from them to send troops to intervene in the form of intervention or mediation which might assist in alleviating this tragedy, and tell us something?

Mr Whitelaw: I will make certain that the Prime Minister appreciates the feelings of this House.

Air Foot has said, I would be departing from my previous position if I were to respond soon after.

Mr Julian Armitage (Brighton, Pavilion, C): Wherever may be the source of the arms supplied to El Salvador, the Cuban government has been guilty of aggression in Angola, Ethiopia and Nicaragua and must be held fairly responsible in Salvador.

In any communication to the Prime Minister, will you state that the balance of opinion in this House is in favour of supporting the Americans in this particular matter, subject to the usual caveats?

Mr Whitelaw: Those points are well known to the Prime Minister and will be part of the discussion and she will be having with the President.

'Observer' deal will need consent

consent

Government consent would be required for the transfer of ownership of *The Observer* from Atlantic Richfield to Lounbo, Mr. William Whitehall, Home Secretary, said when answering questions for the Prime Minister who is in Washington. He said that no application for consent for the transfer had yet been received.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South-West, Staffordshire, C) said: Can he tell us whether permission was sought for the takeover of *The Observer* newspaper, and if not, why not?

Mr Whitehall (Peurth and the Border, C): I understand that Lounbo representatives met the Department of Trade officials this morning.

I am told it was made clear at that meeting that the agreement to transfer *The Observer* is condi-

There was increasing concern in Britain about the activities of racist, Fascist and Nazi organizations. Mr Alfred Dubs, (Wandsworth, Battersea, South, Lab) said at Prime Minister's question time:

They were provoking attacks on black and Asian people. Ordinary people (he said) were being misled by these organisations with the result that they are receiving threatening and offensive letters and phone calls.

Mr Dubs asked Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, who was asked by Mr Thatcher, for an assurance that his present investigation into these racist organisations would be sufficiently authoritative and wide-ranging so that he could come in the House in the near future with firm proposals for action.

Mr Whitelaw replied: I am aware of the concern he expresses and of the troubles and of some of the evidence of these particular attacks which ever since in all parts of the country would be grossly condemned. My investigations will be pursued vigorously and urgently.

We all condemn extremists from wherever they come and they do not all come from one quarter.

MPs to debate strategic deterrent

to deal on any necessary Government consent being obtained.

On the information we now have, the Government believe that consent will be required.

No application for consent to transfer has yet been received in relation to the purchase of the London acquisition of The Observer, or of Atlantic Richfield's stake in George Outram.

Any question of a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is premature.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition: The approaches should have been made to the Government at an earlier date (Conservative Party spokesman: I will promise to give a report to the House on the matter?)

Mr Whitelaw: When this matter has been further clarified and when the Government's decision is made, naturally the Secretary of State for Trade (Mr John Biffen) will consider these matters and will make a statement to the House.

Later, during questions to the Leader of the House, Mr Francis Pym, about next week's business, Mr Whitelaw said that the Secretary of State would be the Secretary of State for Trade.

The England cricket selectors should pick the best people for the team currently touring the Indies, Mr William Whitely, deputizing for Mrs Thatcher, at Prime Minister's question time. He was replying to Mr R

great national newspaper as easily as it can buy a packet of crisps.

Mr Pym (Cambridgeshire, C): I now wonder he says: *That would be a matter suitable for an MP to raise on a private Members' day or in some other way. It is not likely that Government time will be forthcoming in the near future, but I agree about the importance of the subject.*

The night sky

By our Astronomy

Redundancy fund to be increased

although brightening, is not likely to be seen.

Mars is still a bright morning object, but it is getting so near the Sun for observation as to be seen only in conjunction early next month.

Mars is still an evening object, but it is getting so near the Sun for observation. Unlike Venus it has been lurking in twilight for several months and will continue to do so for some time.

Jupiter will come into opposition on the 26th and will be prominent in the evening sky for some time, moving onwards. It will then be at its nearest for the coming year, 668 million km (415 million miles).

Saturn will be in opposition on the 27th and although less bright than Jupiter will also be readily visible in the evening sky.

The Moon (738 million miles). The Moon is near both planets on the night of the 26th.

Uranus in Libra will be rising about midnight during the month.

The Moon and Neptune will be rising about 01.25.

The Moon: new, 6d11h; first quarter, 13d27h; full, 20d15h; last quarter, 27d11h.

Algol: approximate times of evening minima are 8d21h, 15d11h, 22d11h, 29d11h.

The spring or vernal equinox

Royal Assent

most equal days will be the 17th and 18th.

On the Summer Time will begin on the 29th, when 02h GMT will become 3 am BST. This is a departure from the usual date, and many diaries have already been printed when the decision was made. GMT will continue to be used in the papers unless specifically stated otherwise.

As we all know, most stars in the northern hemisphere move monthly from east to west, and as the year goes on, those in the south move from east to west as the night sky changes. The stars in the north experience shows, as does a comparison between successive *Times* maps, that there is a similar change from month to month at a fixed time such as 23h.

At this time of year there is no other factor causing the visibility of stars to change. In the northern sky, the lengthening of evening daylight. The January map is valid for March 1 at 19h and shows Pegasus not quite set.

Royal Assent

in March

The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon at the latitude of London at 23hr 11 pm, at the beginning, 22hr 10 pm, in the middle and 21hr 9 pm, at the end of the month, local Mean Time. A place away from the Greenwich Meridian the same time at which the diagram

and therefore observable. By mid-March the map will apply at 18h, but Pegasus will not be observable as daylight will have caught

By way of contrast the September map shows Arcturus just setting but still observable. The aspect applied to December 1 at 17h and the star would still have been observable, as the Sun

Little can be seen now of the starry sky earlier than 19h, so the western constellations will soon be lost.

If binocular users have not yet looked for the galaxy in Andro-

media, the most distant object visible to the naked eye, this is the last chance for some months. Its altitude between 19 and 20th will be from 40° to 30° , clear of horizon mists but not so

high as to strain the neck. Until the 6th there will be no moonlight and most of the twilight will have gone. The object will be a little to the north of west. Other binocular objects mentioned in January will be observ-

[illegible]

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons

Today at 9.30: Private Members' Bills:
Horse Race Betting Levy Bill and
Development of Tourism (Scotland)
 Bill, second readings.

12-13

wich and earlier by a like amount if the place be east. The map should be turned so that the horizon the observer is facing ~~is at the bottom~~ ^{is at the top} the words around the circle is at the bottom, the zenith being the centre. Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-

able all evening; in the west the open clusters Pleiades and Hyades (the region around Aldebaran) in Taurus; between south and west are Antares, in Orion, and fairly

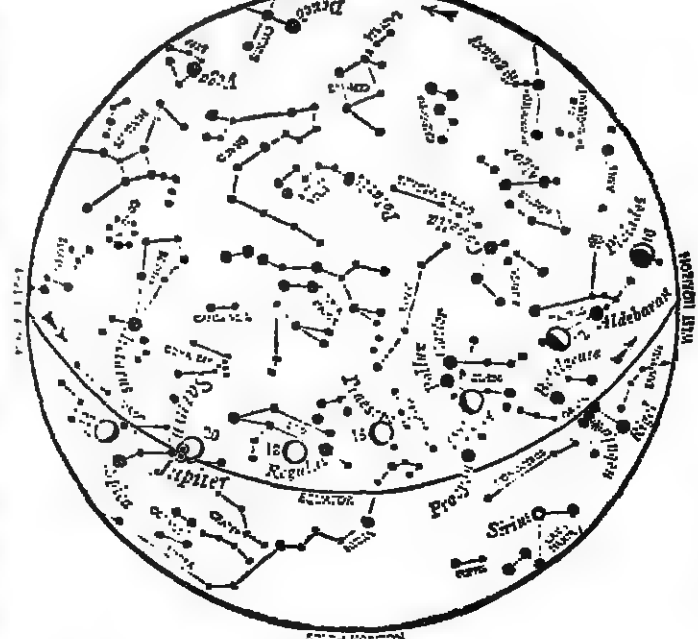
high towards the south is the cluster *Pracsepe* (the Beehive) in Cancer. With all three, avoid nights when the Moon is near; indeed, it is better to avoid all dates when the Moon appears on

For the next month or two Leo will be the dominant group in the south aspect. It is one of the most ancient of the constellations, going back to Babylonian and Egyptian times. That was long

before Greek mythology associated it with the Nemean lion killed by Hercules.

since moved the solstice to the Gemini-Taurus boundary. Thus the constellation in ancient Egypt was associated with the Sun; it has even been suggested that the Sphinx is a representation of Leo.

7



Motoring

Petrol prices falling on motorways

There were hopes, when the Government announced last year that it was withdrawing from direct financial involvement in motorway service areas, that the large gap between what motorists have to pay for petrol on the motorway and off it would be substantially reduced.

The operators of motorway service areas have traditionally argued that one of the reasons for having to charge higher prices for petrol was what they considered to be the excessive demands by the Government for the privilege of carrying on business.

It is widely accepted that petrol on the motorway should carry some premium because of the special costs incurred in running a service area. Petrol stations are required to stay open 24 hours a day, which means taking on extra staff and paying overtime, and because many service areas are in remote rural areas transport for staff has to be provided. But the rent paid to the Government is one overhead that will disappear as operators buy out their leases, and that should lead to a reduction in petrol prices. At the beginning of November, one leading oil com-

pany predicted that the average price of motorway petrol would fall from 147p a gallon to 134p in three months.

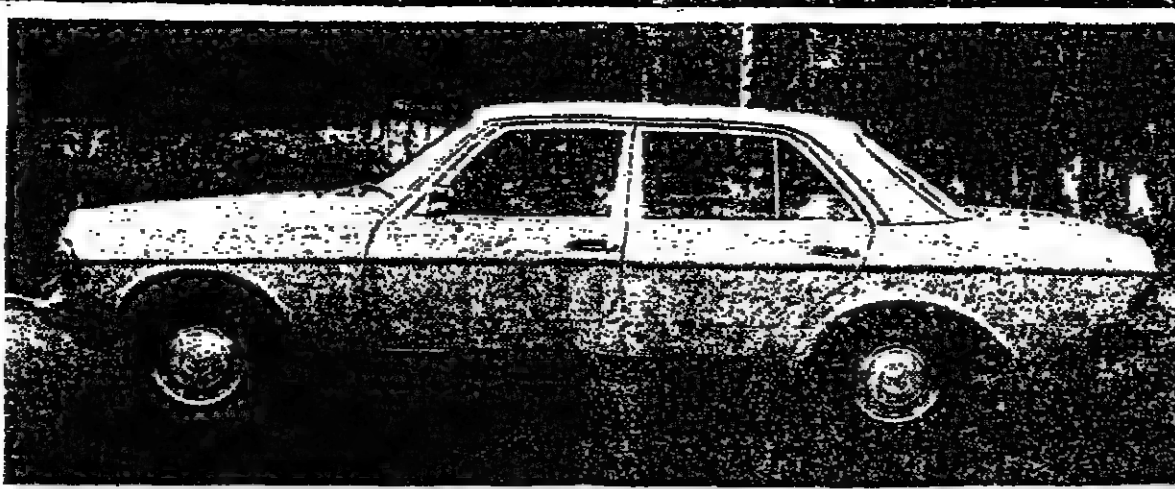
Perhaps that was being optimistic, for a colleague who stopped on the M27 in Hampshire last week found himself having to pay £1.55 a gallon, or 20p to 25p more than the prevailing prices off the motorway.

There was, admittedly, a sweetener in the shape of a 60p voucher available to motorists buying six gallons. But that was not as generous a gesture as it might seem, since the voucher had to be spent in shops or cafeterias on service areas run by the Rownham operator, Roadchef.

Elsewhere prices have come down a little, and a survey at the turn of the year found that it was possible to buy petrol on the motorway for £1.38 a gallon at a time when the average off-motorway price was about £1.30. The trend, at least in the right direction, although it is not a consistent one.

A welcome development is that more motorway petrol stations are posting their prices on the forecourt so that the motorist can know in advance what he is being asked to pay. Such a practice has, up to now, been very rare.

No motorist, of course, has to buy petrol on a motorway. Most cars can travel for 300 miles or more without the need for a fill-up and it should be possible to plan the journey so that the motorway service area does not become a desperate resort. Many drivers bear this in mind, for although motorways account for 7 per cent of traffic, their contribution to total petrol sales is only 1.7 per cent.



More speed, less fuel—the Mercedes-Benz 200

Moreover, motorway petrol sales have been declining. Between 1973 and 1977 the gallonage sold by six service areas on the M1 fell by 12 per cent; traffic, during the same period, went up slightly, while petrol sales in the United Kingdom overall increased by five per cent.

Incidentally, the Prior Committee, which was set up by the Government to look into motorway service areas and reported in 1978, concluded that the public should not have to pay more for petrol on the motorways than off them. "So long as the present situation continues," the report said, "motorists will drive off motorways on to less safe roads to buy petrol."

The committee accepted that the requirement to stay open 24 hours a day might lead to extra cost, but it claimed that the huge gallonage sold and the special credit arrangements made with suppliers cancelled that.

Road test: Mercedes-Benz 200

Everyone, apparently, is doing it and you would not expect a company with the technical expertise of Mercedes-Benz to be any exception. What they are all doing is devising ways of making engines at the same time more economical and more powerful; for a company selling only large cars this is a particularly pressing requirement.

In fact, the new Mercedes four-cylinder engine has a double purpose. They have been developed not only for the current "compact" range but for the smaller model due to be launched in 1983-84, when the 2.3 and two-litre units are expected to be joined by a 1.7-litre.

Mercedes emphasizes that the engines are not revised versions of the previous four-cylinder ones, but completely new designs. Apart from giving better econ-

omy and more power, the aim was to match the smoothness of small six-cylinder units. To complement the engines, Mercedes has brought out a new four-speed manual gearbox.

The new engines, made of light alloy with overhead camshaft, are smaller, enabling both coolant and oil capacity to be reduced. This helps to give a quicker warm-up, which is one factor contributing to improved fuel economy.

On the two-litre unit a valve in the carburettor automatically cuts off the fuel when engine speed rises above 6,000 rpm.

I have been trying the base Mercedes model, 200, with its new engine, and the difference is perceptible. The previous 200 did feel underpowered at times, especially when overtaking in top gear. The same cannot be said for the present car: it is still far from being the quickest two litre on the market but performance is never less than adequate.

The new two-litre unit develops 109 bhp, compared with the previous engine's 94, which is equivalent to the output of the old 2.3-litre. (The new 2.3, which is fuel-injected, develops a spirited 136 bhp). The results are a claimed maximum speed of 104 mph (formerly 99 mph) and, more importantly, better acceleration through the gears and more torque.

I drove the car not with the new manual box but with the four-speed torque converter automatic transmission which Mercedes is offering for the first time on the 200 model.

Mercedes claims a 0 to 60 mph acceleration time with the automatic of just over 15 seconds, which I would say is conservative, and the kickdown is a potent aid to quick overtaking.

If anything, the car feels quicker than it really is, which is partly a tribute to the smoothness and quietness of the engine. I cannot say I had any occasion to reach the 6,000 rpm cut-off point, but at more sensible levels the unit was impressively refined and well up to six-cylinder standard. With little wind noise, motorway cruising is a notably relaxed affair.

Mercedes is not a company given to boasting, but it could justifiably have made more noise about the improved fuel consumption of the 200. According to the official Government figures, the current model is 20 to 25 per cent more economical which is a remarkable achievement. Most drivers should get about 23 mpg in town and 25 or more on the open road.

Apart from the engine, the car continues much as before. Picking out a few of its salient characteristics, I must mention

the crisp and responsive handling; this is helped by excellent (standard) power steering combining lightness with feel and efficient brakes.

The corollary is a ride that is firm to hard, a little choppy over bumps, with some tyre noise. The seats are similarly firm, but not uncomfortably so.

The 200 also embodies the traditional Mercedes virtues of robust construction and thorough engineering. It is a reassuringly solid and well-finished car, giving the promise of an unobtrusively reliable service. At £8,700 a four-door automatic transmission costs another £615; it may be base but it is not as was the case a few years back, basic.

Aids to economy

Renault is another manufacturer concerned to improve economy and to this end has devised what it calls the normalizer, a combined cruise control and speed limiter—which can either lock the speed at its present level or be programmed to observe a given speed limit.

The normalizer, which promotes economical driving by reducing the variations in vehicle speed and throttle opening, is fitted as standard on the Renault 20, which costs at the time of writing £7,577 (£8,035 with automatic transmission). The 20 has a 2.2 litre engine, derived from the current two-litre.

Another economy aid, fitted to the 20TL and LS models, is the econometer. Three lamps tell the driver how frugal he is performing; green means "economical", amber means "ease off the throttle" and red means "change to a higher gear".

Peter Waymark

Car Buyers Guide

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PERSONAL also on pages 12 and 30

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STAND OR FALL

First the miners, then the water workers, next the civil servants. When members of the Civil Service unions were voting in recent weeks on whether to take industrial action over their pay claim, their prospective adversary appeared confident and rigidly entrenched. Now the Government appears vulnerable, humiliated, forced to a compromise twice running. The leaders of the unions were correspondingly full of assurance at the meeting yesterday where plans for action beginning next month were approved. They can pick and choose which to disrupt of the many strategic points in the machinery of administration that are under their control. The results of the ballots and branch meetings up and down the country show that they enjoy substantial support among their followers — even the highly cautious First Division Association has joined the campaign. It is doubtful whether the public widely sympathizes with this identically real sense of grievance, recent pay awards, job security and pension prospects are taken to account, civil servants may all be felt to be enviously well-off already. The pay research team, the abolition of which the Government they keenly sent, would almost certainly have given them a rise in earnings far above the rate prevailing at this moment among other

workers. The 7 per cent offer now before them is somewhat below that rate, but better than what many have settled for in the private sector, where fear for one's job is a relevant factor in negotiations. As for the Government's plan to reduce the size of the service over the years, that has had only minor effects in practice, and would in any case be applauded by most people outside the bureaucracy itself. Lord Soames has already promised talks about the form of pay bargaining in future. It would be politically impossible to revive anything closely similar to the abandoned system. There are advantages in a formal arrangement for assessing pay, so long as it does not exclude current factors, and gives due weight to the broad truth that a salary is high enough if it is attracting sufficient applicants of sufficient quality. There is room for further reassurance here. It is clear that extended industrial action could quickly become both inconvenient and expensive for the Government, causing chaos that might take months to clear up. It could also affect the distribution of welfare benefits. If it did, or if national and international defence arrangements were threatened in the pursuit of this sectional claim, as seems possible, the civil servants could

do rapid and lasting harm to their standing in the eyes of the public. They stand in a special position of trust, and the public will not take its abuse lightly. Partly for this avoidance of unpopularity, striving is to take a variety of partial forms. The Government has prepared equally elaborate countermeasures to reduce its effects. The outcome is therefore particularly hard to foresee. But the case differs from those of the miners and the water workers in several important ways. The strike is not against a threat to the employment of any of those taking it, nor does it involve any direct threat to public health or safety. The employer is the Government itself, not a public sector undertaking with the Government in the background holding the purse-strings. The Civil Service is directly subject to formal cash limits, and other groups in the same position are waiting to follow its lead. The need to control public spending is as great as ever, and is central to the Government's strategy. It can, if it must, borrow to offset a shortfall even of many millions in tax and excise receipts. But unless it strenuously attempts to stand by its policies against the assaults of the civil servants, then its whole strategy will come to seem little more than a dead letter.

WOOP ON 'THE OBSERVER'

at newspapers in chronic deficit may expect to go under if they are lucky, change is a warning written on the face of Fleet Street. After a series of the past few months no one, manager, journalist, printer, reader, can fail to see the disappearance of the London Evening News into the Standard, the change of ownership of The Times and Sunday Times, and now the movement to transfer The Observer from Atlantic Richfield. Outraged, a part of the Lomrho group. The wonder is that as one of the nation's most influential newspapers, it should be in such a position. The latest change, if it receives necessary approval, is welcome in so far as it gives The Observer another lease of life. It is the oldest of the Sunday papers. J. L. Garvin made it the most influential in his day. It has an intellectual force, a moral conscience, and a wide interest that combine to make

it one of the best and least expendable of British newspapers. The change is also welcome if it enables Mr Rowland to execute his declared ambition of starting another London evening paper. The new monopoly in that market is not healthy, and the sooner it is challenged the better. Mr Rowland's takeover, hard on the heels of Mr Murdoch's, also betokens sharper competition among the qualities. That is no bad thing provided the form it takes is competition in quality as the means to success. There are less encouraging features of the deal. The secrecy, the complete absence of notice or consultation with the staff of the newspaper, or even with its board of directors, betrays an attitude more appropriate to the conveyance of a property with vacant possession than the purchase of a newspaper. It was a humiliation for the staff. Nor can they have been encouraged by the contradictory and in some instances offensive comments issuing from the Lomrho side in

the late hours after the news broke. Reassurance began yesterday, but the new owners have made it a more difficult process than it need have been. A deeper source of anxiety is the possibility of conflict between Lomrho's business interests and The Observer's journalistic activity and editorial judgment. Lomrho is an international conglomerate of a structure difficult to bring into focus, extensive trading interests, and an appetite for takeovers. Proprietor and newspaper both have long-standing interests in Africa, but their interests do not necessarily coincide. Lomrho's is commercial penetration. The Observer's is to open to public inspection the condition and affairs of that continent and to pass political judgment related to a characteristic moral position. Nor is it only in Africa that the new to be joined commercial and editorial courses may collide. It will take proprietorial restraint and editorial courage to prevent injury.

IS FOR THE SELECTORS TO SELECT

must be hoped that the Guyana authorities will find a way to keep the right of the British selectors to include Robin Jackman in the England side. But they do not then the Cricket Council will have no option but to cancel the Test, even though Jackman is not likely to play. They will then have to ascertain either the same attitude prevails in Barbados where the subsequent Test is due, and if it does, they will have to cancel it. This will match there. This will amount to cancelling the rest of the tour, for almost certainly Guyana and Jamaica will feel obliged to stand by the Guyana decision, and indeed Jamaica must have done something to go upon Guyana the need to take an example of Mr Jackman account of his South African annexions. This would be a happy end for a tour that has been badly for England but adversely is keenly looked forward to by the rest of the West Indies. It will be a serious blow to the future of international cricket and may mar Commonwealth harmony. The British position has been tested before and it was right for Hector Monro to resist it yesterday, for it needs to be understood by West Indians and Africans who oppose it from within that the Commonwealth Gleneagles team on sport and apartheid

does not abridge the freedom of the selectors who choose any team of sportsmen to represent Britain in international events: of this basic principle cricket is only a particular case. At Gleneagles in 1977 the governments committed themselves to discourage their nationals and sporting bodies from playing South African teams as long as apartheid in sport is practised there. But it was recognized that such commitments would be differently interpreted under different systems of law. Countries with all-powerful governments can (and do) make it illegal for their sportsmen to have contacts with South Africa. This is not possible for countries where individual liberty is prized as the first article of democracy: neither British public opinion nor Parliament would tolerate a Bill making it illegal for British citizens to participate in sport in South Africa, Russia or any other country. That is a fact, more easily understood in the West Indies indeed than in Africa. The British government has repeatedly sought to discourage British sports bodies from playing in South Africa, and not without success at times. But what eventually brought about the cessation of Test cricket with South Africa was the rejection of Basil d'Oliveira as a member of the English side by Mr Vorster in 1969. The (then)

MCC wobbled, but eventually set the rule that it would not be interfered with. Those events have a direct bearing now, and they should, if read correctly, enable President Burnham to reject, not emulate, the Vorster line. Many British sportsmen, after consulting their consciences, do decide that it is licit for them to participate in South African games. Several of the England side now in Guyana have exercised their rights as British citizens to ignore their government's advice and play in South Africa. Guyana accepted them. It is for the West Indian authorities to explain how one degree of contact with South African sport is more or less heinous than another. They need to remember that Britain is a very heterogeneous country nowadays: it is multiracial, but also every part and strand of the empire is represented in the composition of its nationals. South Africa included. We are not ready to have anyone discriminated against—anyone. If British principles cannot be reconciled with West Indian priorities on this issue then, on occasion, international cricket will not be possible. Everyone will have to accept such casualties as the product of politics becoming so entangled with sport. On the issue of personal liberty Britain cannot give way.

ading industrial films

Mr Thomas Dalby The letters by the Chairman of Technicolor Ltd (February 10) and Mr John Wall (February 13) stress the importance of colour in certain cinematic film, and Mr Duffield, of Technicolor Ltd, describes ways and means by which original negatives may be protected by producing three strip separation masters. It needs to be stressed, also, that a vast majority of industrial films produced today are in colour and that these films may not only realize that industrial films are often the only source of archival material which future generations of archivists may have when searching into applications of recent industrial and scientific processes. If the preservation techniques recommended are not adopted, the faded images they will find in company archives will be inadequate for study and analysis. Some years ago, when researching the history of industrial film, the Business Archives Council, found examples from the early days of the century which, because their nitrate base, were too little for projection, but the black and white image was sufficiently good to transfer to modern stock. The films had been made on a colour material available to the

modern film maker, the images would have faded and been beyond recall. Much of today's industrial record is preserved on colour film; it is to be hoped that the wise and practical advice offered by Mr Duffield and Mr Wall will be accepted and acted upon so that the images will be truly preserved for future generations of social and industrial researchers. Yours faithfully, T. DALBY, 4 Westbourne Park, Scarborough, North Yorkshire. February 18.

Rich but troubled waters From Mr H. David Toulson Sir, With reference to the feature in The Times (February 23) "The oil that hasn't helped to calm the Falklands", I am sorry to hear that. If Britain were to lose these islands, it would not only be the Falklands that would be lost, but also South Georgia, Black Shag and other islands. The South Sandwich group of islands and the British Antarctic Territory. Without a 200-mile limit placed around those islands, Britain would not only lose the oil potential, but also some of the richest fishing grounds in the world.

Before it is too late HM Government must be strong and resolute and defend what is British from military dictatorship. Yours faithfully, H. DAVID TOULSON, Member of the South Atlantic Fisheries Committee, 14 Ties Lane, Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

Revolution in employment From Mr J. D. Richard Sir, What are the "leisure hours" referred to by Sir Philip Rogers (February 21)? Every retired man I know is busier than he has ever been. Does the man exist who has done all his work in his old house and garden (and the old lady's next door), answered all his letters, cleaned his car or bicycle to his satisfaction, practised cooking enough to give his wife, for whom there is no retirement, the odd day off and still has time on his hands? If so, let him sit down and write a book to tell the rest of us, who long to find time for hobbies, how it is managed! Yours faithfully, J. D. RICHARD, 24 Cavendish Road, Henleaze, Bristol.

Debate on economic priorities

From Mr Peter Hordern, MP for Horsham and Crawley (Conservative) Sir, Mr Charles Morrison and those other friends and colleagues of mine who wrote to you (February 25) seem to me to have described very well how the Government has reversed its policy towards nationalized industries. Indeed, the sum of money that was supposed to be given, or lent, to them is now more than twice as much as was intended less than a year ago. And I think that the plight of manufacturing industry is even worse than they suggest; for if a surplus on our balance of payments can be secured, even with sterling as high as it is, it is only because our growing North Sea oil steadily reduces the need to export our manufactured goods to the same extent. This has the most profound implications for industry and for employment, which I do not think are yet appreciated. So I yield nothing to them in recognizing how serious is the situation. I see that more money for industry, lower interest rates, and a lower rate of exchange. But I see no suggestion as to how the money should be provided; indeed, only that increases in direct taxation, the cost of wages and salaries, and the cost of property speculation, and the collapse of fringe banks, was not one to forget. It certainly did industry no good then, and I cannot believe it would help now. Of course, interest rates should be reduced, but only if accompanied by a reduction in the amount the Government needs to borrow. When I see that, since the Government came to office, the National Health Service has recruited an extra 25,000 people, that the cost of wages and salaries in the NHS alone will have risen by £90m, that is by 23 per cent in one year by this April, that the local authorities in England and Wales increased their wages by £1,830m, that is by 18.4 per cent, and that the cost of property speculation alone will have risen by £2,000m, that is by 20 per cent in one year, I do not accept that there is not considerable scope for reducing the Government's current expenditure and for removing part, at least, of the intolerable burden that has been placed on industry by the Government. I trust we shall not see higher inflation following higher unemployment, but that is the risk, if the Government prints too much money, and unless it brings its own expenditure under control. Yours faithfully, PETER HORDERN, House of Commons, February 25.

From Mr L. David Sir, We have about 2.4 million unemployed, at £3,200 per annum each costing about £7,680m. We also have unemployed steel, cement, machinery, etc., production capacity. Of greatest economic use to us and future generations would be the construction of a tunnel linking Euston/King's Cross with Victoria/Waterloo. Immediate start on these projects appears to be indicated. Yours sincerely, L. DAVID, 36-38 Southampton Street, WC2.

Natural selection From Mr H. G. Beindorf and Mr D. E. Loukidelis Sir, A recent edition (February 16) of your newspaper contained a report on Professor Randolph Quirk's arguments at the University of London for the suitability of English as a world language. While we do not seek to deny that English is a language richly endowed with literary masterpieces, it would seem that the popularity of English is indeed a result rather of successive British and American domination of international affairs than a manifestation of global reverence for English literary genius. May we suggest also that there are linguistic reasons which, coupled with the above historical realities, may account for the currency of English as an international language. Simply put, English owes its position less to "native speakers of inventive genius" than to the simplicity of both its inflexional system and (core) lexicon. Finally, if the wish is often father to the thought, we would hope that statistics which would confirm the most obvious advantages of English would not be the result of scholarly endeavour undertaken to confirm a preconceived notion. Yours truly, H. GUSTAV BEINDORF, DAVID E. LOUKIDELIS, Brudershofstrasse 7/3, 8000 München 70, West Germany.

Music in schools From Mr Trevor Lyttleton Sir, I believe it was Sibeliuss who said that he preferred the company of businessmen to that of musicians, because businessmen talked about beautiful things like art and music, while musicians only talked about money. No wonder, when the composer is called upon to subsidize everything from the first few years of the now highly profitable commercial radio stations, to charitable functions and church services. Now Joan Bulmer-Thomas (February 21) warns composers and others to subsidize the cost of music in schools. Why pick again on the poor composers, 80 per cent of whom earn less than £250 per annum from the Performing Right Society? Why not call upon those who, equally innocently, supply schools with the photocopyers, stationery, electricity, and books to help them themselves to composers' works for nothing, to subsidize school music instead? Yours sincerely, TREVOR LYTTELTON, Savile Club, 69 Brook Street, W.1.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Helping the people of El Salvador

From Dr David Browning Sir, One of the tragedies of countries such as El Salvador is that, as they become the object of concerned international public opinion only when they become the focus of international power politics, informed discussion and understanding of their problems become lost in the polemics of cold war clichés and propaganda. Mr Clarridge's letter to you of February 24 appears to be a good example of this. For centuries the majority of people in the Central American countries have suffered from poverty and injustice. One hundred years ago, in the interests of the commercial cultivation of coffee, these people had their land, the vital basis of their economy and society, confiscated and transferred to the ownership and for the exclusive benefit of a small privileged elite. A direct result was the disintegration of rural society and the emergence of a landless, migrant and exploited peasantry. Subsequently the degree of poverty became obscene and the injustice intolerable. Rebellion was inevitable and the 1932 uprising was suppressed with inexorable ferocity. Western powers (blame should not be attached exclusively to the United States), though having the power and ability to oblige successive administrations to rectify this situation, have failed to do so. On the contrary, they have supported the status quo by military aid and through economic aid too often have encouraged local economic policies which have been inappropriate and have done little to help the people of El Salvador. Nor have the Church in El Salvador been blameless: until recently it remained silent and acquiescent. Those groups within El Salvador who worked for essential internal reforms—and the present President of El Salvador was one of them—were persecuted and their support. Consequently the middle ground has been eroded to the present point where forces of the extreme right confront those of the extreme left; with each receiving support from their external sponsors. Victory by either before it is too late. It is a tragedy that the Church in El Salvador be so divided. Amnesty International and The Sunday Times recently have documented the inhuman tactics of repression by terror which appears to be the only policy of the extreme right. Nor do we see the experience of those Third World countries now under communist rule make one confident that a communist regime in El Salvador would be any less repressive: in neighbouring Nicaragua, where a skillfully managed communist revolution has taken place, there is the introduction of those instruments of political repression that are such a constant feature of communist rule. The immediate crisis of El Salvador will be resolved within the context of United States strategic

interests regarding the Central American isthmus and the desire of the Soviet Union to extend its influence in the Caribbean region. In these circumstances it is difficult to be sanguine about Mr Clarridge's prediction that "the victory of Salvadoreans is certain". Perhaps, however, it is not unrealistic to hope that out of the present sufferings in El Salvador there will at last emerge a stronger and more selfless response by Western powers, and that there will be close cooperation with Mexico and Venezuela, to the needs and aspirations of the people throughout Central America. Yours faithfully, DAVID BROWNING, St Cross College, Oxford, February 25.

From Mr K. R. G. Smith Sir, My wife and I have followed with considerable interest the reporting of events in El Salvador on television in this country. We were in El Salvador until the end of 1974 and knew that events such as those shown would happen sooner or later. We were involved with the Episcopal Church in helping small aid projects and a medical dispensary within the country. During our time there an election was held in which the right wing candidate, Colonel Molina, was elected President despite the probable victory of a "left wing" politician, Napoleon Duarte. There followed a coup d'état in which the incumbent President, Sanchez Hernandez, was captured after a takeover by the army. This subsequently collapsed as soon as Napoleon Duarte had come on the radio to appeal for calm and to support the rebellion. The Guardia Nacional returned, President Sanchez Hernandez was put back in power and Duarte fled for his life to the Venezuelan embassy before going into exile. It is sad, therefore, to see Duarte portrayed as a right wing extremist now, since he has long been popular in San Salvador as a liberal politician. He has a near-impossible task to fulfil in El Salvador, where years of uncontrolled population explosion, encouraged by the strong Catholic Church, has left a legacy of poverty and overcrowding. This poverty has been exploited by the rich, and their inherent cruelty from the Spanish culture of the Conquistadores handed down in Central America, has ensured an enormous gulf between rich and poor. Nevertheless, Napoleon Duarte does represent the middle class Salvadoreans who have brought in labour laws, social security and land reform. Yours faithfully, K. R. G. SMITH, 69 Quarry Road, Winchester, Hampshire.

New Concert of Great Powers?

From the Master of St John's College, Cambridge Sir, The text of President Brezhnev's speech (report February 24) suggests that he has proposed something more comprehensive than a summit meeting with President Reagan. What he seems to be proposing is that Soviet Russia and the United States should take the lead in establishing a Concert of the Great Powers. Your report of the welcome given to his "new and remarkable innovations" by the American Secretary of State (February 24) is therefore encouraging to those observers with an interest in the history of international relations who have long foreseen that both super-powers would one day conclude that their attempts to solve international problems by unilateral action or through exclusive alliances are incompatible with détente and doomed to be frustrated. If it is indeed true that the Soviet and US Governments have now reached this conclusion, they will still find it difficult to translate their wishes into action by re-activating either the Security Council or the less formal machinery of the 1945-1946 Conference. Is it too much to hope that the British Government, together with the Imperial Russian government did so much to launch the old Concert in the years after 1815, will give some thought to what it might do to help to set up a new one? Yours sincerely, F. H. HINSLEY, The Master's Lodge, St John's College, Cambridge, February 25.

The Pope's call

From Lord Brockway Sir, As a non-Catholic may I pay humble tribute to the Pope, shown by his Hiroshima appeal (report, February 25), to be the greatest of modern popes, by his courage and vision, and urge all Catholics, Protestants, those of other faiths and humanists alike, to devote themselves to achieving disarmament by the renewed United Nations Disarmament Assembly in June, 1982. This will be the best homage to the Pope. Sincerely yours, FENNELL BROCKWAY, The World Disarmament Campaign, 21 Little Russell Street, W.C1, February 26.

Crime prevention research

From Mr Louis Bloom-Cooper, QC Sir, We are disturbed at reports of an imminent cut-back of 40 per cent in the professional staff of the Home Office Research Unit. The Howard League has long maintained that research is an essential basis for sound policy, and that the real effects of penal sanctions and, no less important, to indicate the cost/effectiveness of different methods. The unit has made a valuable contribution on such subjects as crime prevention, the effects of long prison sentences, and attendance centres, despite a reduction in staffing from 80 to 69 between 1975/76 and 1980/81. The cost in 1980/81 is only about £1m, plus £500,000 for external research. As a member of the Advisory Council on the Penal System from 1966-1978 I greatly appreciated its ability to provide the information we required. Its research has sometimes thrown doubt on the received wisdom, for example, by suggesting that the level of crime in the community is likely to be reduced by crime prevention strategies rather than by increasing the size of police forces or the length of prison sentences. One of the most valuable functions of research is precisely to show how to obtain better value from law enforcement expenditure. We hold no special brief for the Unit, but at a time of great anxiety about crime rates and the penal system we should greatly regret any reduction in research work. Yet the percentage of the law enforcement budget spent on research has been low in the last four years when in the early 1970s, and the amount spent in prison research has steadily declined in real terms since 1973/74. I hope that the Home Secretary will not make false economies and then wish, like those who do not read the papers, that he had been better informed. Yours sincerely, LOUIS BLOOM-COOPER, Howard League for Penal Reform, 169 Clapham Road, SW9, February 24.

Getting BR shipshape

From Captain J. A. R. Swainson Sir, When I was in the Royal Navy, a smart sailor meant a smart ship and a scruffy sailor meant a scruffy ship. British Rail is in the same boat and the same judgement can be used. I assume Sir Peter Parker would admit to being in charge of a uniformed body of men but has he looked at the uniform lately? I have never seen so many cowboys in all my life. Training shoes, coloured mottos, funny hats, everything in fact but the uniform. So the next question is, what has happened to the supervisory grades? The NCOs, if you like, who see that the uniform regulations are adhered to? The railway must pay a heavy bill to equip all British Rail personnel with uniforms. Where is the middle management to see that they wear it properly? A scruffy porter, a scruffy railway station and scruffy will predominate. Waterloo and Charing Cross are constantly full of piles and piles of rubble and junk. The left-overs no doubt from work gangs and never cleaned up properly. Does Sir Peter Parker ever walk around a railway platform using a seaman's eye? Where have all the NCOs gone? Yours faithfully, A. SWAINSON, 48 Springfield, Cambridge Wells, Kent, February 25.

Labour and the centre

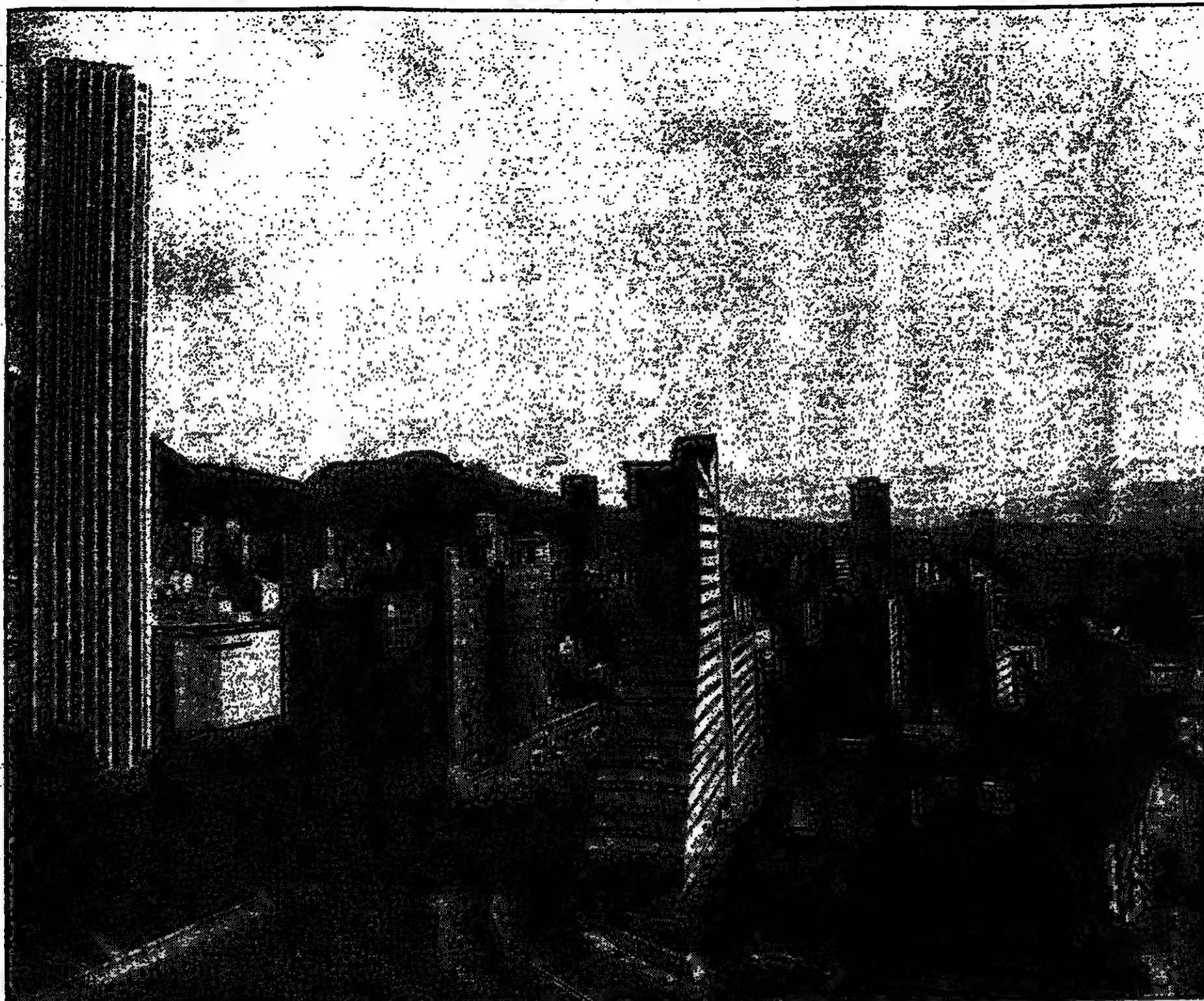
From Mrs C. J. P. Willis Sir, A new social democratic party will need to be more than the "left of the Tories" that Mrs Shirley Williams claims it will be. It needs also to be a considerable threat to a left-dominated Labour Party (and there are rather fewer signs that it will succeed in this, otherwise it will like the Conservative Party before it) to do relatively well when the electorate is discontented with a Tory Government, but unless it can achieve the power to enable it to change the present electoral system it will quickly be perceived as a threat to the status quo. The effect on the Labour vote, and that a vote for it brings to power a Labour Government robbed of any restraining influence of social democrats—whereupon the discontented Tories will return home while they still have to do so. Mrs Williams and her friends should therefore be more concerned to make a real impact upon the traditional Labour vote, rather than congratulating themselves in advance on their probable impact on the Tory vote. They will need more than this, and if it is all they achieve they will surely fail in the task they have set themselves. Yours faithfully, MARY WILLIS, Little Redstone, East Wood, Surrey.

From Miss Enid Lakeman Sir, Why does Jeremy Tigue (Letters, February 14) need any explanation for the loss of her seat by a personally popular MP? Under our electoral system that sort of thing is all too common. In 1979, compared with the previous election, Shirley Williams' share of the total poll in her constituency declined by four per cent, and because her party was very little ahead of the Conservatives there, this sufficed to bring her out of office. Wilson's share of the poll in his constituency declined by 10 per cent, but since his party there was still very comfortably ahead of the Conservatives it made no difference to him. Under the single transferable vote, on the contrary, if a party loses seats the MPs who disappear will be those whom the voters think can best be spared. Yours faithfully, ENID LAKEMAN, Editorial Consultant, The Electoral Reform Society, 6 Chancel Street, Blackfriars, SE1.

Remarkable reversal

From Lord Kilmarnock Sir, While General Franco was being supported to me that a Bourbon restoration after his death would prove a viable proposition. King Juan Carlos of Spain has proved me wrong. The importance of the principle of loyalty both to himself and to the constitution that the King has managed to establish in the armed forces cannot be overstated. Had it not been for his personal influence, it is highly doubtful that the army would have accepted that vital step on the road to Spanish democracy, the recognition of the Communist Party. Now, once again, Don Juan Carlos has demonstrated his crucial importance to the continuance of democracy in his country.

COLOMBIA



Bogotá, capital of Colombia, sits more than 8,000ft high on an Andean plateau deep in the interior. Photograph: John Hillelson Agency.

In 1912 a Mr Warner slung an 890-metre cable between the great hills of Montserrat and Guadalupe, that tower over the east side of Bogotá, and walked across blindfold. He was, of course, an Englishman. While few Colombians seem to remember Mr Warner's dangerous stroll, their own rare version of the democratic system has for some time been doing a passable imitation, writes Alan Robinson.

But the winds of change blow sharp and cruel across this lovely country of 27 million people. They blow from north and south, from left and right, from the militarized Southern Cone and the embattled Central American republics; from the forces of subversion within Colombia and from the nation's Armed Forces. The cable has been swaying wildly of late and the system has performed prodigious balancing feats.

Faced with the likely alternative, the majority of Colombians fervently hope their strange democracy makes it all the way across. They cannot be sure of it, because there are obstacles that cannot be stepped over or kicked aside: abject poverty, high unemployment, rising lawlessness, widespread cynicism and discontent with the dominant political parties, along with a lopsided distribution of national wealth whose injustices would make a Mexican blink.

Colombian democracy exists by virtue of a flexible oligarchy of families that has created a control system unequalled anywhere in Latin America for its complexity. It is hard to find a minister or ex-minister whose family tree is not laden with former ministers.

The durability of the system was exemplified when President Julio César Turbay Ayala went to Washington for an eye examination in mid-February. His substitute—installed with much circumstance and not a little pomp for a period of nine days—was Dr Victor Mosquera Chaux, wealthy senator for the department of Cauca and a descendant of a president who ruled the nation for almost four terms 150 years ago.

The Liberal and Conservative parties have dominated politics throughout Colombia's history. In 1945, the assassination of Señor Jorge Eliécer Gaitán, the Liberal Party's presidential candidate, provoked a bloody civil war between them. "La Violencia" killed 300,000 Colombians and ended with Liberal establishment seem determined on freezing out another candidate, Señor Alberto Sanzofimo Botero, the outspoken representative of the newer regional political leaders.

On the Conservative side, the favoured candidate is Señor Alvaro Gómez Hurtado, the son of a former Conservative president and the owner of a daily newspaper, *El Siglo*. His main challenger is the twice-defeated Señor Belisario Betancur, a populist. The Conservatives are busy trying to forge a new right. The options seem to be a type of christian democratic trend or what one Liberal observer describes as a "Thatcher-Reagan style conservatism". Señor Gómez Hurtado represents the latter.

One of the results of this tightly-controlled system is that the political centre has been strengthened and the extremes of left and right weakened. The Communist Party is legal, has two representatives at national level, and is very much a part of the establishment. The true opposition is clandestine and subversive, with not much popular support.

The Moscow-line revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) is the oldest of the guerrilla groups and numerically the strongest, but the bulk of its members are penned up in the thick jungle region of Caquetá where about 8,000 troops were deployed to bound them in January. The Popular Liberation Army (EPL), which looks to Peking for inspiration, is in a similar desperate plight in Córdoba on the Caribbean coast.

The National Liberation Army (ELN), whose most famous member was the late, revolutionary priest Camilo Torres, has broken into quarrelling groups, some of which remain active. All in all, the rural revolutionaries pose no threat to stability.

The urban-based M-19, whose spectacular exploits include the two-month occupation of the Dominican Embassy in Bogotá last February, has gained some admiration among the population for its daring. One such coup—the theft of 5,000 small arms from an army barracks in Usaquén—infuriated the military and probably brought on the worst phase of army repression in late 1979 and early 1980.

The M-19 is seriously divided. It is variously characterized as nationalist or Christian or fascist or even an ideological mixture. At least 200 reputed M-19 members are undergoing military trials, largely in secrecy, while some 50 members of the FRAC are also being tried by army courts.

The militarization of rural Colombia became inevitable when President Turbay turned the army loose on subversion and the drug trade. On taking office he

continued on next page



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COLOMBIA

Coffee

An empire of small private fiefs

It is a far cry from Colombia's host of tree-shaded coffee farms, perched more than 3,000 feet up on the sunny slopes of the Andes, to Bogotá with its Manchester sky, and an even farther one to London in October. Dr Arturo Gómez Jaramillo, head of the Federación Nacional de Cafeteros, has made his mark in all three places.

Dr Gómez has run the federation for the past 25 years and is only the second director in its history. It groups Colombia's 315,000 private coffee growers, more than half of them operating on less than 15 acres each, and has become something of an empire in itself.

The organization has a bank, an insurance company, a merchant fleet, sugar mills, warehouses and laboratories. Little wonder that Dr Gómez is known as "Mr Coffee", a title he dislikes and disclaims. "I don't like to personify things", he has said.

He is also known as a formidable negotiator and has been described by one member of the Government as "one of the most powerful men in Colombia". From his spacious office in the federation he has seen Colombia's coffee production boom from 5,500,000 sacks to 12,700,000 during his 25 years in office. Exports have leapt from five million sacks to 11,400,000 last year.

Colombia is the world's leading producer of mild coffee, and stands second to

Brazil in total production. The frosts that blighted Brazil's crop in 1975 and again in two subsequent years, and political problems in the African coffee countries, drastically cut the world's supplies to the benefit of Colombia whose share of the world market rose from 12.5 per cent to 19 per cent, while Brazil's share dropped from 25 per cent to 21 per cent.

Happy Colombians thought this would go on for ever. But in 1980 Brazil did not have its expected cold spell, and the prospects of all its coffee coming on the market reduced the international price to \$123 a lb by September. Brazil then began an aggressive sales policy, and eventually the principal producers decided to avoid a price war by returning to the quota system which had been suspended when demand was outstripping supply.

Brazil, among others, was not happy about the change in the balance of the international coffee market, and Colombia, Indonesia and Mexico did not want to lose everything that they had gained. It looked as if agreement would be impossible. There was a great deal of coffee, not just in Brazil but everywhere else.

Colombians believe that Dr Gómez's presentation at the October meeting in London of the International Coffee Organization was decisive in ensuring a healthy export quota for his country. He told the delegates of

the producing and consuming nations that the existing coffee agreement could not be applied in a rigorous form, because "if we don't recognize the change in the world structure of production, it won't be viable". The problems in the way of agreement would be many, he said.

After long and hard negotiations, Colombia obtained a quota of 3,700,000 sacks, or 17 per cent of the world market, an increase of 40 per cent over the figure it would have had under the initial conditions of the international agreement.

At home, the federation continues to fight for a rise in domestic coffee prices. The industry's profit has suffered from inflation, but the Government has granted only a minimal price increase.

When reviewing his 25 years at the head of the federation, Dr Gómez said that in 1955 there was only one coffee-growing cooperative. Today there were 56, uniting 125,000 small farmers and giving them access to credit and technology.

The Gracolibana merchant fleet—one of the most important in Latin America—has 25 ships with a total capacity of 320,473 tons, and an equal number of vessels under charter; it takes Colombian coffee to 51 countries. The Coffee Bank (Banco Cafetero) has 288 branches and is the third largest bank in Colombia; the federation's insurance

company covers growers' risks, provides life and accident insurance, and export cover.

With government participation, the federation built a sugar mill in the Cauca Valley, where production will reach 73,500 tonnes of refined sugar this year, and it has created 10,000 jobs in the area. Another sugar complex is planned for the Colombia-Venezuela border zone, representing a joint investment between the two nations.

The United States remains Colombia's largest coffee customer, but the EEC countries are buying more than before. West Germany is the largest European buyer. Dr Gómez laments Britain's lack of interest. "There's a lot of awful coffee in Britain", he says.

Colombians are great believers in the product and drink a great deal of it; secretaries in most offices in Bogotá absorb 10 or more cups a day. Britain, with double Colombia's population, drinks not much more in total quantity, while Mexico with 70 million people consumes only about 1,500,000 sacks.

The slightly-built, soft-spoken "Mr Coffee" takes four small cups of black coffee (called *cafés*) during his working day. Between calls to and from London, Rio, Brussels and Bogotá, he looks up and says with a wry humour: "You could go back and tell the British how good it is."

Alan Robinson

Industry

Imports blamed for decline

While the state statistical agency DANE has said the industrial production rose only 2.7 per cent in 1980, the National Association of Industrialists (ANDI) reports that output sank by 0.6 per cent. Either way, it amounts to recession compared with the 4 per cent to 11.4 per cent growth rate recorded over the past few years.

A sign of the times in February was a declaration by the Federation of Metallurgical Industries (Fedmetal) that its sector was in crisis. The Government's attempt gradually to remove protection from domestic industry was the trouble.

"Every day the market belongs less to Colombian businessmen and Colombian workers", Señor Carlos del Castillo, president of Fedmetal, said. "It is madness to continue opening our borders [to imports] indiscriminately. The Government may be going well, but the nation is going badly."

Even DANE's latest picture of the metals industry is desolate. It is a no growth situation that the thick curtain of happy statistics put up by the Government cannot hide.

Transport equipment, wood products, electrical machinery, textiles, leather goods and non-metallic minerals' reported sharp declines.

A small battle broke-out among statisticians when DANE's figures of 5.9 per cent up to June last year and was challenged abruptly by Fedesarrollo, an independent research organization headed by Señor Miguel Urrutia, the former mines and energy minister, who maintained that production fell 7.6 per cent in June and 5.8 per cent in August and had fallen for four consecutive months.

The industrialists of Colombia are complaining about many things including the railways and the alleged that the Government has done little to give the country adequate transport. They complain about the ports: "How can we trade without proper railways and ports?"

They also worry about the so-called economic crisis and the lack of control of smuggling and the drug trade. They oppose the gradual lifting of protective barriers for domestic industry and lament fuel shortages and

Industry's performance in 1980 did nothing to improve the availability of jobs. Colombia has an available workforce of eight million and estimates of unemployment range from 6 per cent to 12 per cent.

The official view is 6 per cent unemployment, ANDI figures forward 9.3 per cent unemployment and 8 per cent underemployment as plausible up to September last year. Others advance the suggestions of 11 to 12 per cent. In short, no one knows but everyone is sure the situation is serious.

With 70 per cent of the population in the cities and peasants still moving towards urban areas (although not in their former numbers), unemployment and poverty increase, breeding a crime wave in the big cities. According to Dr Raúl Borrero, an ANDI official, Bogotá is growing by more than 5 per cent a year and its unemployment rate is 7.3 per cent.

This could be a difficult 12 months for labour relations, if only because it is an odd-numbered year and in such years most labour contracts are renegotiated.

There are four trade union federations, the largest being the Unión de Trabajadores de Colombia (UTC), which is split down the middle with its president Sergio Ramírez Piñilla. Curiously, both belong to the Conservative Party, on different wings, and are supporting the creation of a new workers' party.

In February the union federations were threatening a general strike, but industrialists tended to think this was all noise. "After all, the unions are really part of the establishment", one businessman said.

Whether or not the unions are "establishment" discount is growing among the workers and the unemployed as inflation makes life difficult.

Dr Borrero admits that the Government is the nation's biggest employer with a workforce of about 800,000. The minimum wage in Colombian urban areas is about \$120 a month, less in rural zones. Many unprotected workers do not get even that. Army generals recently got a rise to just over \$2,000 a month. The difference was noted bitterly.

Industry is not investing at the levels some would like to see. Industrial stocks in the markets of Bogotá and Medellín are not attracting investors because stock yields carry a 40 per cent capital gains tax. Money flows to government bond issues which are tax exempt.

Credit for industry is short-term, carries interest rates of up to 40 per cent and the interest is payable three months in advance, he noted.

A.R.

Economy

Big investment needed

Although statistics differ greatly at times, Colombian economists in general agree that 1980 was neither a brilliant year nor a bad one.

They also agree that the gross domestic product grew by about 4 per cent, compared with the 1979 figure of 5.1 per cent. The nation managed to register a \$626.9m current account surplus in spite of a \$106.2m trade deficit, bringing international reserves to about \$5,200m.

The inflation rate at consumer level slackened from 28.8 per cent in 1979 to 26 per cent last year, while the average for Latin America remained at over 50 per cent. Fairly strict monetary policy in the first nine months of the year effectively froze 46 per cent of the money supply and resulted in nil credit growth in the first half. By October, the foreign public debt had jumped 44 per cent above the figure for the previous year and the government-guaranteed loans rose by 31 per cent. The debt stands at just over \$4,000m, the lowest among the seven largest Latin American countries, and 94 per cent of it is in United States dollars.

Heavier government spending and investment signalled that the Government's national integration plan (PIN), covering the 1979-82 period, is well under way. These expenditures surpassed \$8,000m, 75.1 per cent up on the previous year with capital expenditures accounting for 27.6 per cent of the total. Investment in agriculture by the state rose by 91.3 per cent, in mining by 149.6 per cent, and in health services by 252.2 per cent.

The PIN analysis of the economy emphasises that the population's doubling rate is 35 years and not 23 years as it was a generation ago (the present birth rate is down to 2 per cent) and that mass migration to the cities from the countryside has started to slacken.

Noting the present status of Colombia as an oil importer (which it became in 1975), the neglect of the mining sector, the decline of public investment since the 1970s, the general inadequacy of transport and communications, and the low capacity for electricity generation, the PIN proposes public investments amounting to \$22,000m by 1982. About a third of this would come from foreign loans.

The main aims of the plan are to develop energy, mining, transport, communications, health services, and to accelerate administrative and economic decentralization of the nation by making the regions fairly autonomous.

If the energy sector is not developed, about 40 per cent of all export earnings would be paying for fuel imports within five years, the PIN points out. Nearly \$4,000m will be invested to increase installed electricity generation capacity by 75 per cent.

Expansion of transport and communications will be vital to growth and some \$500m of new roads will be built, another 1,350km reconstructed and 1,721km refurbished.

A.R.

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COLOMBIAN GRAPES
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

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Banking

A country awash on a tide of liquidity

Top 10 Colombian banks (pesos m)

	Net profits 1979	Total assets (Dec 79)	Net profits 1980	Total assets (Dec 80)
Bogotá	646	44,824	872	68,720
Colombia	750	45,931	980	68,697
Cafetero	410	38,167	888	46,781
Popular	158	27,554	371	37,833
Comercio*	337	26,673	581	34,249
Ganadero	185	18,205	312	28,375
Bancoquía†	338	18,027	407	23,693
BIC‡	237	13,037	285	17,725
Occidente	253	10,698	792	18,008
Del Estado	43	6,808	237	14,076

* Chessa Manhattan is a shareholder in Banco del Comercio
† Bancoquía stands for Banco Comercial Antioqueño, also from Medellín
‡ BIC stands for Banco Industrial Colombiano from Medellín

Through the 1970s Colombia's financial institutions grew more rapidly than any other part of the country's economy. This reflects both the strength of the peso and the strength of the dollar. Prices through most of this period, and more importantly, Colombia's position as the world's number one exporter of contraband to the United States, through complex exchange controls were maintained throughout the period, the country was awash with money, particularly over the last five years. This had a dynamic growth in the banking sector, and Colombia is now faced with a deluge of money from its savings.

Five of the top 10 banks belong to the large financial groups which dominate the Colombian economy. These groups are fiercely competitive among themselves, and observers noted with interest that the Banco de Bogotá, which dominated the banking scene for 100 years until it was dislodged from its perch by the Banco de Colombia, regained the top spot in terms of assets it controls in 1980. The Banco de Colombia is the cornerstone of the Grupo Graciano. This was perhaps the most dynamic group in the past decade, moving into a wide variety of service industries, stock exchange operations, and particularly television, radio and publishing. The Grupo Bogotá, on the other hand, has pursued a more conservative policy and remains a fundamentally industrial finance group. One of the most important features of the 1980s is likely to be the continued expansion abroad of the big banks, with the Banco de Bogotá, Banco de Colombia and the state-owned Banco Cafetero in the lead. The latter is used to be primarily concerned with the increase by more than 100 per cent during the 1970s of its operations. The Banco de Colombia has close relations with Eulabank in London, the Banco Arabe Latinoamericano (Arilbank) in Lima (and Kuwait), assets of 26 banking Bledex in Panama and the

Central National Bank of Miami. It has its own branches in Panama and New York and last year it began to develop closer relationships in Chile and Paraguay. The Banco de Bogotá has its own trust company and agency in New York. Last year it set up a trust subsidiary in the Cayman Islands. It also has a subsidiary in Panama, and is a shareholder in Arilbank and the Banco de los Andes from Ecuador. One bank to watch, which is rapidly moving up the league, is the Banco del Estado, which is not controlled by the state. The Banco del Estado has recently acquired the Banco Panamericano and the Banco de América Latina. The process of growth and concentration shows no signs of weakening, despite problems in the more traditional sectors of the Colombian economy. It is likely to continue unchecked well into this decade, despite complaints about the enormous power and profits of the major groups.



Coffee is traditionally the main earner of Colombia's export revenue, but some believe it may have been overtaken by cannabis.

Hector Melo

Contraband

Drugs no drug on market

Colombia has something of a love-hate relationship with the world of illicit drugs. As a major grower and exporter of high grade cannabis the country has long been under pressure from the United States to control its black economy. On the other hand it is difficult to stifle a commodity which some estimate to be a larger export than coffee.

To complicate matters Colombia, because of its geographical position and experience in the drug trade, has also become an important transit point for the flow of fashionable cocaine from other South American countries and the drug is challenging cannabis for the attention of the drug market.

In essence the problems of Colombia are those of many countries in the Third World which find they have a commodity which can better their economies but also earns them the disapprobation of Western nations.

Were it not for the growing Western market in illicit drugs in the 1960s and 1970s Colombia would not be on the horns of a dilemma since the crop has expanded to meet that demand. Until the early 1970s cannabis plantations were small and Colombian society tended to treat the drug with great suspicion.

The country, however, was the centre of a lucrative smuggling trade to and from the United States during the coffee boom of the early 1970s. As a result of this trade American smugglers are believed to have introduced the seeds of Mexican cannabis to produce a new strain bred with the indigenous plant. The result was cannabis with a high concentration of the active ingredient.

The timing was felicitous for there are those who mark the rise of the Colombian trade as the point at which the Americans successfully brought the traffic from the West Indies under control. Certainly it is a trade which has rapidly expanded.

In 1979 it was estimated by one source that 85,000 acres were under cultivation, producing 15,000 tonnes a year. Two thirds of this crop is exported with 85 per cent going to the United States. Inside Colombia thousands of families rely on the crop in some way for their livelihood and at the top are the narimberos, the dealers.

Both the Mafia in the United States and a Colombian variation are now said to be in control of the trade. Miami has become a major centre for dealing and much of the produce is moved into the eastern seaboard. Only 20 per cent of the money generated is thought to return or remain in Colombia but it is enough to produce the usual tales of corruption. One regional governor resigned last year while local policemen are said to be given the choice of bribes 33 times their normal wages or an untimely death.

Pushed by the United States, the Colombian Government has tried a number of measures including military columns in wilder areas. The result was that, although there were successes such as the devastation of a valley of cannabis reported to be 50 miles long, the occupation of the troops brought opposition to their methods and eventual withdrawal. It has been estimated that full controls would cost \$150m in armaments and equipment.

At the same time the Government is making use of the economic potential underfoot. Banks have a special window at which small farmers can cash dollars into pesos with no questions asked. Two years ago Colombia's leading federation of farmers seriously put forward the possibility of legalization, arguing the economic and social advantages which could accrue.

Failure to legitimize the trade might lead to social instability and the sort of governments so often seen elsewhere in South America. Although the Government has not gone as far as legalization it is now prepared to "socialize" the income from the drug trade. This appears to mean accepting what is de facto if not de jure.

This applies to cocaine, as well. Observers believe that the cannabis crop is in decline, partly because of bad harvests and partly because of the attractions of the money to be made from cocaine.

Countries such as Bolivia which funnelled crops through Colombia are now said to be improving their own trade routes and pushing the Colombian gangs out. In response the Colombians are reported to be increasing their own output. Last year government forces uncovered an advanced processing plant.

The trade routes are already established. In New York two years ago police investigators uncovered a transport system using Colombian freighters. Cargoes were dumped overboard on the way in at a pre-determined point and later, swimmers would go out to recover the drugs. Smuggling rings into Europe have been established for some years.

Whether Colombia can benefit from this trade—juggling the profits against the international pressure for controls—remains to be seen. There is little doubt that the new Reagan administration in Washington will want to adopt a tough policy on drugs. That can only mean fresh pressure. Attitudes towards cannabis have relaxed in many countries but cocaine is still regarded, rightly or wrongly, on a par with heroin.

Stewart Tandler
Crime Reporter

Foreign policy

Andean Pact takes on political flavour

A large country with great regional differences and from time to time, internal political difficulties, Colombia has tended to be primarily taken up with its own affairs. Its foreign policy has been largely concerned with relations with its neighbours and in particular with its partners in the Andean Pact.

Relations with the United States are also important. However, such is the political and economic areas; and Colombia, like other members of the Andean Pact, is anxious to improve trade with the European Community, so that there is greater access for its products in Western Europe.

For the United States, Colombia has a special significance as the source of many of the drugs that flow into the country; Colombia produces marijuana and is a trans-shipment centre for cocaine from Peru and Bolivia. The Government has been under American pressure for some years to curb the flow, and has taken measures to do so, though the flow is far from having been stopped.

Set up in 1969, the Andean Pact is first and foremost an economic undertaking, designed to bring about a steadily increasing integration of the member countries' economies. It consists of Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia—Chile, a founder member, having left after the military coup d'état of 1973.

In the past few years, however, the pact has become increasingly political, and there have been attempts to establish a common foreign policy. This trend was encouraged by the Carter administration in Washington, which saw the pact as a democratic counterweight to the military governments in the Southern Cone.

Colombia and Venezuela have had democratic systems for many years—though Colombia's two-party system has its critics. Peru and Ecuador have both returned to civilian rule in recent years, and Bolivia was heading the same way until last year's military coup.

The concept of a common foreign policy was at its strongest on the eve of the fall of the late President Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua in July 1979. The members of the Andean Pact collectively played an important part in the negotiations which took place at that time, providing backing for the insurgents of the Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional and pressing General Somoza to leave.

Since then, meetings have regularly been held to co-ordinate policy and new joint institutions have been set up. But it has not always been possible to overcome national differences, and the process has been set back by the outbreak of disputes between the members, especially the recent border war between Peru and Ecuador.

Colombia, in particular, has long had doubts about the politicization of the Andean Pact. It has gone along with its partners in their advocacy of democracy, but it has been less forward than some of them; it has taken the line that it was in favour of democracy, but that pact members should be careful not to breach the principle of non-intervention in other countries' affairs.

After last year's Bolivian coup, for instance, it was less ardent than Ecuador. The Andean Pact countries as a whole condemned the coup, carried out by the armed forces under the leadership of General Luis García Meza; and Colombia, as the host country, did not invite

General García to a meeting at Santa Marza last December, held to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Bolívar's death—an action which led General García to threaten to pull Bolivia out of the Andean Pact.

But though it did not recognize the new military regime, Colombia did not withdraw its embassy from La Paz—taking a similar line to that of Britain and other European countries. It also gave the Bolivian regime an assurance that it would maintain relations with it.

Reaction to the Bolivian coup is one of the areas in which the common foreign policy line of the Andean Pact has been under strain. Another difficulty is one that affects Colombia itself—tension with Venezuela over the delimitation of marine and submarine areas. The disputed areas are possibly oil-bearing, and the issue has become a highly emotional one.

The area at issue is the Gulf of Venezuela, and talks have been under way between the two countries for several years. Last year a provisional agreement was reached between the two delegations, but when the details were published they were greeted with a chorus of opposition in Venezuela, and nationalist feelings were whipped up.

The issue is nowhere near so controversial in Colombia, and there is little opposition to the terms of the provisional agreement. But relations have been embittered by the reaction in Venezuela, and the issue is far from being settled. Colombia has offered to take it to the International Court of Justice in The Hague, but Venezuela has refused.

At the same time there is tension between the two countries over the large number of Colombians, possibly

running into millions, who have gone to find work in Venezuela. For some years now Venezuela, with its oil wealth and relatively high wages, has been a magnet for immigrants from many parts of Latin America, and Colombians are the biggest group.

In the past year or two this influx has begun to create a xenophobic reaction in Venezuela. Most of the immigrants have settled illegally, and the Venezuelans have threatened to deport those who are not registered. The process has begun, but not so far in such great numbers as has been feared.

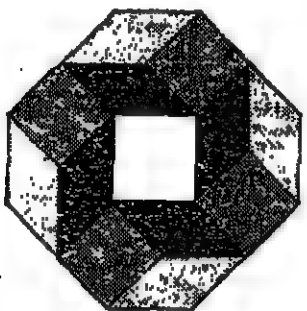
Another border dispute is with Nicaragua. In 1928 Colombia and Nicaragua signed and ratified a treaty designed to settle a dispute which dated back to Spanish colonial days, by which Colombia acknowledged Colombian sovereignty over some small islands: Providencia and San Andrés, that lie between their two coasts.

Last year, however, the new revolutionary government of Nicaragua announced that the treaty had been accepted under duress, as a result of pressure from the United States, and that Nicaragua still claimed the islands. Colombia refused to accept this, and the issue remains unresolved.

Both Colombia and Venezuela are concerned about the fighting between Ecuador and Peru, because of the threat to the cohesion of the Andean Pact. When fighting broke out President Julio César Turbay Ayala of Colombia and President Luis Herrera Campins of Venezuela sent a letter to the two countries offering to help to resolve the dispute; Ecuador accepted but Peru refused.

Peter Strafford

Ministerio de Trabajo y Seguridad Social



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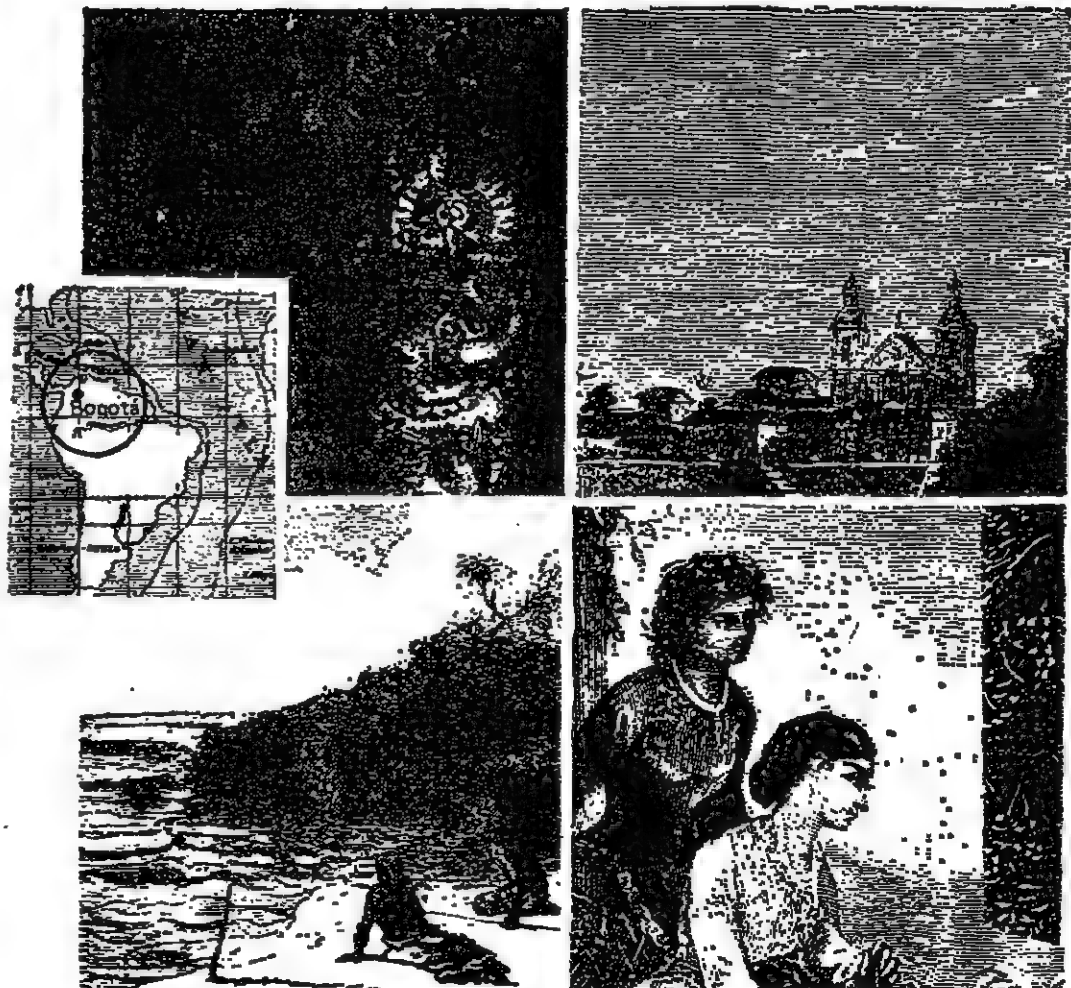
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COLOMBIA

Mining

Poised for great leap forward into age of coal

When a Colombian tells you the future looks black he is generally referring to coal, not politics. This country is sitting on vast reserves of high-quality coal, by far the largest in Latin America, still mostly unquantified and in many places incapable of being mined, because of deficient support services and inadequate transport.

Colombian mining tradition, which centred on gold and emeralds, is turning to coal, nickel and eventually uranium. There are brighter prospects for phosphate rock, bauxite and copper. The Government will spend \$24m this year on mining development and arrest the decline of a sector whose contribution to the gross domestic product fell to 1 per cent at the beginning of the 1970s.

Now Colombia is poised for its great leap forward into coal power. Carbocol, the parastatal coal company, and Intercol, an Exxon subsidiary, are jointly developing the north block of the huge El Cerrajón coal deposit in the Guajira Department, which contains an estimated 3,000 million tonnes of low sulphur, low ash, and steam coal, generating 14,000 British thermal units. The project will consist of two open cast sites, to be excavated down to 200 metres, at an estimated cost of \$3,000m. Production will be on a tremendous scale, reaching 15 million tonnes a year in its first phase and possibly 25 million tonnes by 1990.

The north block project will be self-contained, with a \$405m railway, stretching 50 km from the mine to the port of Bahía Portete on the Caribbean coast, where a \$410m port improvement programme is under way. A highway along the same route will be ready later this year.

The Carbocol-Exxon project at El Cerrajón caused a furious debate throughout Colombia, first because the foreign firm had 50 per cent of the nation's biggest coal mine and second because most of the coal would be exported. Colombia lost its self-sufficiency in oil in 1975.

"Don't export our coal reserves as you did the oil", the critics told the Government. However, there were assurances that the first two million tonnes or so of production would feed power generation plants at Cartagena, Barranquilla and a new one planned for El Cerrajón itself. The debate then died down.

Meanwhile, at Montelíbano in the Department of Córdoba, the Cerro Matoso production complex plans to extract ferronickel by 1982, reaching a production of 22,585 tons by 1984.

The Cerro Matoso nickel mine is a joint venture in which Billiton Overseas, a British wholly-owned subsidiary of Shell Petroleum, has 35 per cent, the Hanna Mining Company of Detroit 20 per cent, and the Colombian Government holds the remainder of the stock.

Billiton Metals and Ores International, a Dutch company within the Royal Dutch Shell group, has agreed to purchase production up to 22,500 tonnes a year. Mr Malcolm King, the company's vice-president, put the capital cost of exploration at \$394m. Shell itself, which seconded Mr King to the project, committed \$200m. Further financing came from the World Bank, the United States Export-Import Bank and a private syndicate headed by the Chase Manhattan Bank, he said. Sales income will touch \$180m a year.

Uranium development in Colombia is controlled by a state agency, Colurano. Involved in uranium exploration programmes by association contracts with Colurano are Enusa of Spain, Mines of France and the Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuels Development Corporation of Japan. Exploration has shown the strong possibility of usable uranium in several places in Santander, Cundinamarca and Meta. Colombia is split by three great mountain ranges and there is uranium all over those mountains, the Swiss expert said. The Government has not yet defined the commercially exploitable deposits.



Among the projects being pushed by the Parastatal mining agency, Ecominas, are the mining of phosphoric rock deposits of about 19 million tonnes in Boyacá and nine million tonnes in Sardinata, north of Santander. Gold mines are scattered all over the country, but the largest production comes from the department of Antioquia, which accounted for about 214,000 oz of the nation's total output of 246,445 oz in 1979. In Caldas, there are possible reserves of

three million tonnes and preparations are under way to start mining. The area produces about 6,000 oz a year. Silver output is a by-product of gold mining and is running at about 75,000 oz annually. All gold and silver bullion is purchased by the Colombian National Bank, by law.

There are long term prospects in copper at Pantanos-Pedagocito in the department of Antioquia, Mocoa in Putumayo and Alisales in the same location.

About 375 million tonnes of bauxite have been found in and around the Cauca Valley, but preliminary work still continues. The country's first asbestos mine went into production in 1980 in Antioquia, with a capacity of 20,000 tonnes a year.

Colombia is short of iron ore reserves, has only one productive iron ore mine and an associated small integrated steel works at Pas del Rio in Boyacá. The plant produces 300,000 tonnes a year of iron and steel. Smaller operations in Bogotá, Medellín and Cali make steel from scrap, using electric arc furnaces.

Colombian emeralds come mainly from the Muzo mines in Boyacá, but the Coscuez Mines near by are catching up as an important emerald mining centre. Production figures for 1979 are reported to be 394,800 carats. The United States purchased \$10.51m-worth of the output and Japan acquired emeralds worth \$28.39m.

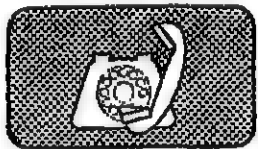
Alan Robinson

"Guajeros" at Muzo wait hoping to find emeralds which have escaped the company employees.

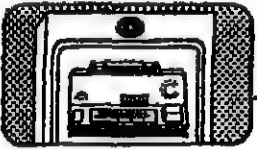
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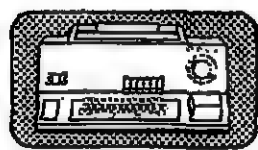
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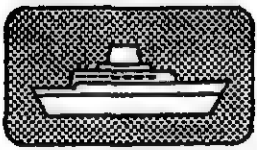
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Energy

Oil firms are drilling holes all over the countryside

Colombia ceased to be self-sufficient in petroleum in 1975 and having fallen from that state of economic grace is now striving to regain it. Foreign oil companies believe that the prospects are good, so good that they are drilling holes all over the countryside.

But if the prospects for more petroleum are promising, those based on the nation's hydroelectric, coal and natural gas potential are even more so. "Colombia could be in for an energy boom", according to Mr John Collins, Chairman and Managing Director of Shell Colombia.

Dr Luis Enrique Giraldo Neira, Vice-Minister of Mines and Energy, gave some figures: crude oil production is 122,947 barrels a day, leaving a daily deficit of 50,000 barrels. "We will make up that deficit by 1985", he said. Imports of crude oil are equivalent to 19 per cent of consumption, while Colombia must also import 35 per cent of the petrol it uses. Proved reserves of crude amount to 680 million barrels, but only 25 per cent of the country's 716,000 sq km of sedimentary basins have been explored, and superficially at that.

Installed capacity for electricity generation has been growing at 9 per cent a year for the past 10 years, Dr Giraldo said. Installed capacity in per capita terms was 162MW last year, 72 per cent in hydroelectric plants and 28 per cent in oil or coal-fired power stations. The potential hydroelectric capacity of the country is 93,000 MW, which would meet our demand until the start of the next century.

Colombia's vast coal seams—80 per cent of estimated reserves—are in the huge El Cerrajón zone in the north of the country. They are expected to displace natural gas in coastal areas. Even with low-level technology, coal mining has been grow-

ing at the rate of 5.1 per cent a year since 1970, to total output of 4,900,000 tonnes in 1979. Coal will feed three of the nation's main power stations, with about two million tonnes earmarked for that purpose from El Cerrajón.

Natural gas is abundant, with known reserves of 4,716 million cu ft. Surprisingly, wood accounts for about 30 per cent of the primary energy consumption, with nearly 12 million cu metres used in 1979, mainly for cooking in rural areas and on the fringe of the bigger cities.

In spite of the relative abundance of energy resources, a severe shortage of official funds has prevented their satisfactory development. Petroleum is still the most used resource, although oil reserves are comparatively low, while the immense hydroelectric resources contribute less than any of the other energy sources in Colombia.

So far the best answer to the financing problem has been the participation contracts between the parastatal oil agency Ecopetrol and a score of multinational oil companies. The multinationals put up the risk capital, come in and drill, and Ecopetrol only puts up its share of the investment when oil or gas is struck.

"The Government is very dynamic in this respect", Mr Ray O'Mara of Anson Drilling said. The association contracts with foreigners have been very successful and there are 30 applicants. Twenty or 30 firms are waiting in line and every week another company is talking to the Government. In these circumstances, the problem is now a shortage of rigs.

Dr Giraldo also emphasises the convenience of the contracts to both sides. "Colombia's association contracts have been held up by the United Nations as an example for other developing nations", he said.

The enthusiasm of the foreign oil firms is justified, according to Señor Miguel Urrutia, the former mines and energy minister. "In

1976 the oil companies started to return to Colombia. There have been small finds, but no really significant new fields in the past two years. However, the signs are very promising", he said.

Shell is one of the companies that sold out its oil interests, divesting itself of petrol stations, which it sold to Mobil in 1969 and passing over its wells to Ecopetrol in 1974. Mr John Collins of Shell says that the firm has no plans to re-enter the petroleum sector, but is interested in coal, nickel and chemicals. "The chances of finding more crude oil are beginning to look good", he said. "The coal reserves and the possibilities for hydroelectric expansion, plus a mining industry that will be very useful in the future, make Colombia attractive to business."

Señor Javier Fernández, the Vice-Minister of Finance, is sure that Colombia will become self-sufficient for petroleum in the near future. "Information is that we are well on the way", he said. According to Mr Ray O'Mara, oil is occurring at greater depths than is usual in petroleum exploration.

"In Arauca they drilled down nearly 23,000ft, in some places they have gone down about 25,000ft", he said. "Crude is rare at that depth."

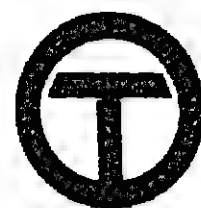
Recent oil and gas strikes have been made at several places close to the Venezuelan border, mostly of heavy oil. "Colombia has no refinery capable of upgrading it at the moment", Mr O'Mara said. One such strike was at Campo Puerto in Boyacá department and "that could turn into a big one", he said. He added: "Geologically speaking, much of Colombia is an unknown quantity."

Meanwhile, the Government is pursuing studies into the possibilities of solar energy, wind power, biogas and alcohol as a substitute for petrol. Bilateral cooperation pacts in these areas have been signed with West Germany, East Germany, Switzerland, Italy and other nations.

A.R.



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COLOMBIA

Robin Greer describes the population centres and discusses historical

United Kingdom links with the country

Conquistadores' missionary forts are now modern cities

Like islands set in a sea of unspoilt countryside, the cities of Colombia combine variety with antiquity. Most were founded by the Spanish conquistadores almost as missionary forts to control and civilize the surrounding areas. These places, with their dominant cathedrals, which survive in most Colombian cities, maintain a strong link with the colonial past.

Deep in the interior, on a high Andean plateau, at an altitude of 8,660ft, sits the capital, Bogotá. Founded in 1537 by Gonzalo Jiménez de Quesada during his search for El Dorado, the town was originally called Santa Fe de Bogotá. Just outside Bogotá is the lake of Guatavita, which is still reputed to be rich with golden offerings.

Tucked under the mountains, Bogotá stretches north and south from its old colonial centre. Though now surrounded by skyscrapers, La Candelaria, with its steep, quaint streets bordered by appealing two-storied white-washed houses, is being painstakingly restored and maintained.

The south of Bogotá belongs mainly to the poorer people and has its stony towns housing the destitute, whereas the north is the enclave of the middle classes and the rich. It is in the north of Bogotá that you see the evidence of Colombia's steady development. Hand-some new houses with well-tended gardens line wide streets along which are driven the very latest in cars. The shops stock almost everything that the well-travelled Colombians could desire, and fine restaurants and pleasing night clubs abound.

Tradition hangs heavily in Bogotá as elsewhere in Colombia. Although many may have fallen on hard times, families that carry old noble names are respected and emulated. The true Bogotá carries himself like an old-fashioned English gentleman and has surprisingly similar traditions. Courtesy, ritual and hospitality are as important as maintaining appearances. A tradition of literature, especially poetry, is combined with a Spanish

considered the purest and clearest in Latin America.

Bogotá, and Colombia in general, has had a great deal of adverse publicity about theft and violence. The violence is usually confined to domestic squabbles amongst the groups of emerald merchants or drug dealers. Unless a foreigner is foolish enough to meddle, there is little reason to see more than newspaper reports of these incidents.

In Bogotá's downtown area, where most hotels and the impressive Gold Museum are located, there is always a risk of theft. This can usually be avoided by not wearing jewelry, watches or cameras. A visitor would also be wise never to do business on the street; the more tempting the offer the greater the chance of trickery. It is the Colombians themselves who suffer most at the hands of the lightfingered. Thefts of cars and car-parts make vehicle ownership a constant worry.

Bogotá and its surroundings are green with frequent rain. There are many over-

cast days and a mean temperature of 65°F, not unlike an English early summer. In Colombia, the climate and temperature depend entirely on altitude, the proximity to the equator evening-out most seasonal differences.

An almost ideal climate is enjoyed by Colombia's second city, Medellín, set in another—slightly lower—valley. Medellín enjoys a perpetual spring and prides itself on the variety and abundance of orchids it produces. The people of Medellín and its surrounding department, Antioquia, are known as the most industrious in all Colombia. They have made their city the centre for textiles and many other industries, and have taken their enterprise throughout the country. Wherever there is business, the Antioqueño, with his amusingly burbled accent, may be found at all levels. Medellín is also famed for its love of the tango.

Further to the south, the yet warmer climate of Cali echoes to the rhythms of the salsa. Cali, an important

agricultural and trading centre, has its colonial past but the city is mainly much more modern. The annual feria or carnival, which draws visitors from many parts, typifies a fun-loving, relaxed attitude to life, though balanced by a reasonable degree of hard work. Cali also has some of the handsomest women in Colombia.

Not far from Cali, up in the mountains, close to the border with Ecuador, is Popayán. This, perhaps the most historic city of Colombia, was the first capital of the Spanish province of Nueva Granada. Though today it is a somewhat sleepy backwater, rich with beautiful old colonial houses and monasteries, it is from Popayán that most of the presidential and traditional families of Colombia hail.

At the very southern extreme, below the equator, lies Leticia. An Amazon river port, with a few small naval vessels, it is a curious frontier town perched on the borders of both Peru and Brazil, and is used by many as a staging point on their way down the Amazon or when making short jungle tours.

Over 1,100 miles away on the northern Caribbean coast is Cartagena. Comparisons are sometimes made with Bahia in Brazil, usually in favour of Cartagena. Dominated by the San Felipe castle, built to the classical designs of Vauban, the old city is still surrounded by thick walls. The three-storied houses with wooden balconies jutting out into the streets and with lush interior patios provide a cool haven against the hot, heavy humidity.

The streets and markets teem with colourful life and are a joy to walk through. Many of the elegant houses are being lovingly restored and some are now restaurants of a very high standard. Most of the hotels are on the adjoining peninsula of Bocagrande and are generally very modern and good, although, perhaps, the most appealing is the Hotel Caribe. Its old-fashioned charms outweigh any drawbacks.

Farther along the coast is the largest of the coastal cities, Barranquilla. Set close to the mouth of the River Magdalena, once the country's main thoroughfare, Barranquilla is an important centre of industrial and commercial life. However, it is not an especially attractive city for the visitor.

More pleasing is the other main city of the coast, Santa Marta. Blessed with a dry desert-like climate, Santa Marta, which was founded in 1525, is one of the most popular resorts of Colombia. Besides its own golden sands, Santa Marta offers neighbouring attractions such as the unspoilt fishing village of Taganga and the Tayrona National Park, with its varied beaches, dense rich vegetation and exotic birds and butterflies.

The rugged terrain of Colombia forced the people into the air and Colombia had the first civil airline of Latin America in 1919. Even today air travel is relatively inexpensive and efficient. Hotels are generally good and fairly priced, with the food of fine quality and, not being highly spiced, most acceptable to the English palate.



The people of Medellín are the country's most industrious, but these youngsters in the city know how to enjoy their leisure.

They dreaded Drake's drum but liked the British

Tales of Sir Francis Drake, the buccaners and their exploits on the Spanish Main still stir the hearts of every romantic Englishman, calling up a golden era of valour and glory. But the actual location of the Spanish Main is generally less well known.

The area which was called the Spanish Main is the northern Caribbean coast of South America, stretching from Portobelo and Nombre de Dios in the west to Trinidad in the east. Today, Portobelo is in Panama, and the rest of the coast is shared by Venezuela and Colombia. The Colombian coastal towns of Cartagena, Santa Marta and Rio de la Hacha loom large in the annals.

The great wealth that Spain was extracting from its American colonies and shipping through the Caribbean ports irresistibly drew the English sailors. The Spanish were unwilling to share their treasure. So a pattern was set of the Spanish refusing to trade, followed by the English attacking and taking the towns.

Sir John Hawkins and his sometime lieutenant, Sir

Francis Drake, took Rio de la Hacha and Santa Marta many times, Cartagena usually being a harder nut. Santa Marta proved so easy that Drake had to put on a show of capturing the town just to save the governor's face. After the taking of these towns there were often fine haunts as the Spanish colonists and the English sailors entertained each other.

Attacks on the Colombian mainland continued into the eighteenth century. The key to the control of Caribbean trade was perceived as Cartagena, but it proved difficult to take.

In 1739, Sir Edward Vernon had successfully captured Portobelo; so, in 1741, he proceeded to attack Cartagena with 190 ships and 27,000 men. But the town remained impregnable, and Vernon decided to lay siege. The strong defences, internal dissensions in the attacking forces, and, most importantly, their devastation by yellow fever, led to failure. Serving as a surgeon's mate, Tobias Smollett recounts the experiences of the soldiers in his novel *Roderick Random*.

After many months the heavily depleted forces abandoned the siege and withdrew. Cartagena counted this as a great victory, and for its triumph was awarded the still-used name of the Heroic City.

The contact with Britain that is best remembered in Colombia occurred during Simón Bolívar's Wars of Independence, at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The Napoleonic wars had loosened Spain's control of its colonies, and poverty and bad government had left the people resentful. Bolívar and his associates resolved to take advantage of this situation.

However, when Spain sent 10,000 troops to reassert its weakened authority, Bolívar appealed to his London agent, Luis Méndez, to raise a force of volunteers. To recently discharged servicemen and to the British merchants it was a fine opportunity. In a three-year period from 1817, some 5,000 English and Irish volunteers left for South America. Shipwreck, disease and desertion took a heavy toll, and a much smaller number actually arrived.

After initial but temporary successes along the coast, Bolívar became convinced that the key was the capture of Bogotá. So, in 1818, he marched from Venezuela through the jungle and plains up into the high snow-covered plateau to attack Bogotá. His troops were mainly untrained irregulars, but the leaven were his British volunteers.

The Dragoons of the Guard of Bolívar were commanded by Colonel Rooke, and two rifle regiments were led by the British officers, Colonel Arthur Sandes and Major J. Macintosh. Most famous of all was the small all-British unit of 16 officers and 130 other ranks, known as the British Legion. At the decisive battle of Boyacá, it was a British bayonet charge that broke the defending forces and gave Bolívar his prize, Bogotá. The volunteers went on to help Bolívar to complete his campaigns. The British presence was not forgotten after independence, and for a while the new Republic of Gran Colombia accorded special

privileges to the British, by way of thanks.

The prospect of this vast new country with huge possibilities excited many people. Jeremy Bentham, in particular, was so enthused by Gran Colombia that he advocated a strengthening of the links with Britain with mass emigration. Even today, some Colombians regret that this immigration did not occur, and that Britain had little direct influence on the country. At least, they say, we would have had decent railways.

However, there is one part of Colombia that did have strong ties, the islands now called San Andrés and Providencia. These two Caribbean islands, located about 440 miles north of the mainland, were colonized by 90 Englishmen at the end of May, 1631. Old Providence was the fourth British colony in the Caribbean, before Jamaica.

The Providence Company was founded in London in 1630, and its directors were all prominent puritans, the treasurer being John Fynn. Their main aim was to establish a model puritan colony. However, the company was given the right not only to colonize but also to trade, and, if attacked, retaliate. Providence, a volcanic island, was chosen as the main base because its natural harbour made it more suitable for privateers than the coral island of San Andrés. The experiment soon proved an expensive failure.

The climate of the island, which was excellent for cultivation of tobacco and cotton as cash crops, was too enticing and languid for nurturing a puritan morality. The introduction of Negro slaves and many other petty squabbles soon rent the colony. The Spanish admiral Francisco Díaz de Pimentel landed with 2,000 men, the colony was crushed.

The directors of the company were losing interest. They had their eyes more firmly fixed on politics in England. When in May, 1641, the Spanish admiral Francisco Díaz de Pimentel landed with 2,000 men, the colony was crushed.

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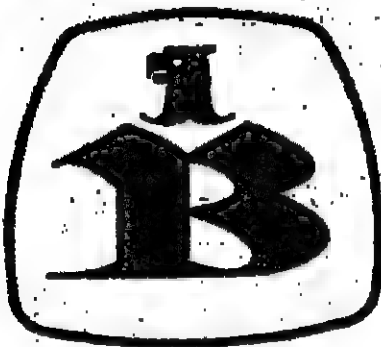


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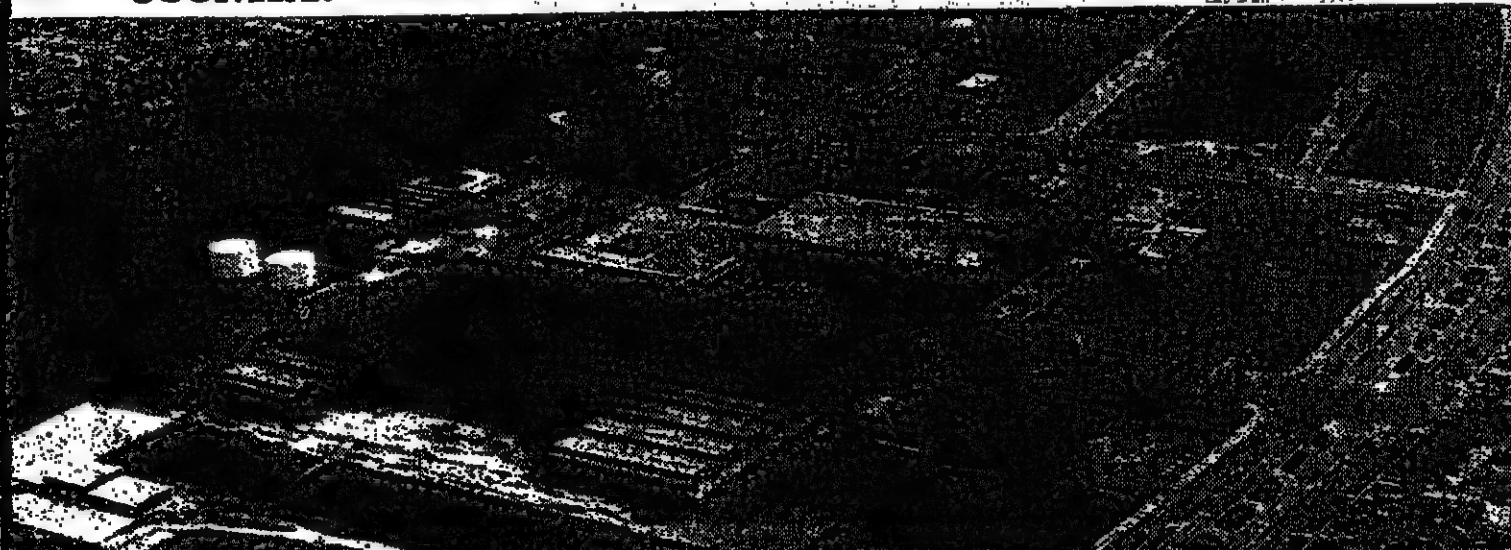
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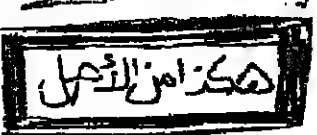
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Stock markets
FT Index 497.8, down 4.2
DM2.1145, up 0.3

Sterling
\$2.2260, down 25 points
Index 99.3, up 0.1

Dollar
Index 99.9, up 0.3
DM2.1145, up 70 points

Gold
\$491.50, down \$8

Money
3 mth sterling 121/121
3 mth Euro \$ 161/161
6 mth Euro \$ 161/161

IN BRIEF

Conditions waived to free \$400m Chrysler aid

Chrysler may receive the \$400m in additional Federal aid guarantees it needs, even though the group has not complied with parts of its earlier financing agreements with Washington.

In its determination to present a Chrysler bankruptcy, the government has retroactively waived a dozen specific administrative and financial requirements of the company's rescue plan.

Meanwhile, Chrysler said it had cleared the final major hurdle in its effort to secure use of the added \$400m when the last of its 150 lenders agreed a revised debt agreement on Wednesday.

The \$400m offering of United States government-backed notes will carry a yield of more than 10 per cent.

few director for

ank of England
Mr Anthony Leonis aged 44, an associate director of the Bank of England in charge of overseas operations, has been appointed an executive director of the bank.

Mr Dow, the Bank's top economic adviser, is to retain his present responsibilities within the Bank and becomes an adviser to the Governor. Lord Jenson of Woldingham is stepping down as a non-executive director and his place on the board goes to Mr David Scholey, joint chairman of S. G. Warburg & Co.

facility withdrawn

The German Federal Bank is withdrawing its special Lombard lending facility for commercial banks, introduced on Wednesday at a 12 per cent interest rate.

Compeda deal

A computer-aided system for land design management has been sold by Compeda, a subsidiary of the National Research Development Corporation, to ummus, the American engineering construction organization.

ink extended

The trial marketing link between Prudential Assurance Company and the Leicester Building Society in the West Country is to be extended nationally.

Woolwich loans

The Woolwich Building Society is to make an additional 5m available for lending in northern Ireland and part of the money will provide special assistance for the purchase and improvement of "rural cottages".

400,000m oil

The value of North Sea oil discovered so far is £400,000m, Mr Hamish Gray, Minister of State at the Department of Energy, said in answer to a written parliamentary question.

German Ford

Ford-Werke AG said it would invest DM620m (about £122m) in the next two years on modernizing production at its Venk, Belgium, plant.

Government urged to adopt new strategy to effect recovery in real economy

By Melvyn Westlake

Any economic recovery in Britain is still two years away, according to new forecasts published today by the National Institute for Economic and Social Research. This is in flat contradiction to recent ministerial statements suggesting that an upturn in the economy is likely in the next few months.

Because of the prolonged recession and a continuing rise in unemployment, the Government's objectives for cutting both its spending and the growth in the money supply during the next couple of years are not now attainable, the National Institute says in its latest *Economic Review*. Instead, the Government is urged to adopt a "new economic strategy which concentrates upon recovery in the real economy".

The review contains an illustrative set of policy changes, including a cut in indirect taxes, a postponement of the tax relief changes for stocks, and a temporary lower exchange rate, which could reduce unemployment by 210,000 by the end of 1982.

The Institute estimates that such a package of stimulating measures would raise the public sector borrowing requirement by £3,000m in the next financial year and £2,000m in the one after, and increase the money supply 4 per cent by end-1982.

The Institute does not believe, however, that such a package of policy changes would be inflationary. The reduction in indirect taxes would offset the upward influence on prices of the fall in the exchange rate.

The Institute says, its forecasts do not suggest the British economy is yet near the point where the recession will "bottom out" and give rise to a spontaneous recovery that is sufficiently strong to reverse the present paths of output and unemployment.

While the gross domestic product will stop falling, it is not expected to rise. Unemployment will therefore go on rising over the next two years, towards the three million mark. On present policies, the Institute's forecasts cannot foresee any spontaneous recovery coming from either private investment, stockholding, the trade balance, or personal consumption.

The Review is not even particularly optimistic about the outlook for inflation, which is expected to come down into single figures this year and then level out not far below 10 per cent.

The National Institute is generally Keynesian in its economic analysis and employs a forecasting model of the economy which has many characteristics common to that used by the Treasury.

It frankly describes Britain's short and medium-term growth prospects as bleak. "Forecasting a further fall of 1.3 per cent in the real gross domestic product during 1981. This will follow a drop of 2.7 per cent last year."

In 1982 the real GDP is predicted to rise by a mere 0.2 per cent. The Institute's personal disposable income shows a small rise both this year and next, because earnings for those people in work rise slightly faster than prices.

The public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) in the present financial year is predicted to reach £14,000m. This compares with an initial forecast by the Government in the last Budget of £8,500m and a revised figure of £11,500m only last November.

In the coming financial year the PSBR is predicted to remain high, at some £12,000m. It will be £11,000m the year after that, according to their calculations.

In its medium-term financial strategy, published last March, the Government aimed to reduce public borrowing to about 31 per cent of the nation's gross domestic product in the financial year 1980-81, and then to 21 per cent in the following two financial years.

But according to the National Institute's calculations, public sector borrowing in 1980-81 will reach 6 per cent of the gross domestic product (higher than it was in 1978-79). In the following years, the percentages will be 4.4 and 4.

The Government is expected to have a similar difficulty holding to its money supply targets.

The pound's effective exchange rate against a basket of currencies is forecast to rise steadily, to stand 11.7 per cent higher in the last quarter of 1982 than it did two years earlier. The surplus on the current account of the balance of payments is predicted to more than double this year, exceeding £5,000m, but dropping back to £3,200m in 1982.

SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE'S FORECAST

	Real GDP (per cent change, year/year, 1975 prices)	Real personal disposable income (per cent change, year/year, 1975 prices)	Unemployment (per cent, fourth quarter, 1980)	Money supply (per cent change in sterling, 1980)	Consumer prices (per cent change, fourth quarter, 1980)	Current account balance (£ billion, 1980)	Public sector borrowing requirement (£ billion, 1980)
1979	2.1	5.7	12.3	11.5	15.8	-1.7	9.9
1980	-2.7	2.7	20.2	18.0	12.9	2.3	14.0
1981	-1.3	1.0	20.7	10.0	9.5	5.1	12.0
1982	0.2	0.7	20.9	10.0	8.2	3.2	11.7

* Great Britain, wholly unemployed, excluding school-leavers.

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Stockbroking firms locked in talks

By Catherine Gunn

Partners of two well-known stockbroking firms Quillier-Hilton Goodison and Hedderwick-Stirling-Crumbar were locked in lengthy talks, widely thought to be merger discussions, at Quillier's Gresham Street offices last night.

The talks follow difficulties in Hedderwick's gilt-edged business, which has been involved in two Stock Exchange inquiries in as many years. Quillier-Hilton Goodison's senior partner is Mr Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange. Mr Wallis Hunt became senior partner of Hedderwick last year when Mr Ralph Hedderwick retired.

Talks between the two firms had been categorically denied the previous day by both Mr Hunt and Mr Richard Blandland, managing partner of Quillier.

Yesterday's meeting started at 5pm and was still underway two hours later, after a day of rumours ranging from a merger of the two firms to Hedderwick's possible withdrawal from stockbroking.

Quillier has been known to be seeking a marriage partner for some time, while Hedderwick was widely rumoured to be in difficulties ever since problems arose over its gilt-edged department two years ago.

A year-long Stock Exchange inquiry by a committee which reported in February 1980 led to the temporary suspension from exchange membership of three of Hedderwick's partners, the censuring of then managing director Mr Colin Franklin, and the expulsion from Stock Exchange membership.

The former head of the firm's gilt department, Mr Terence Webster, who had resigned in 1979, was said to have acted to benefit certain discretionary accounts without defending the best interests of all clients. The Stock Exchange assessed findings on to the City of London Fraud Squad. Mr Franklin retired last year.

The three suspended partners resigned immediately from the firm, which began to try to rebuild its gilt department. But only four months later it was caused further embarrassment when, in June last year, suggestions that Hedderwick might have lent gilt-edged stock to jobber Wedd & Owen, which ceased trading that month, led to the start of another Stock Exchange inquiry just as Mr Wallis Hunt stepped into the retiring senior partner's shoes.

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Minister's ruling today on Lonrho bid for House of Fraser

By Philip Robinson

Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, is expected to announce today whether Lonrho's £158m takeover bid for the House of Fraser will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for investigation.

Recommendations from the Office of Fair Trading went to the Trade Department yesterday afternoon following a Mergers Panel meeting on Wednesday which considered submissions from both companies and the views of four government departments.

The urgency for a decision stems from the fact that next Wednesday Lonrho's shareholders meet to approve the company's 150p a share offer for Britain's largest stores group.

The meeting in London at 10 am is to consider only one resolution, after which Lonrho, which already owns 29.99 per cent of Fraser, could walk into the Stock Market and buy the 30 million shares needed to gain control.

Meanwhile, Fraser directors fighting the bid, disclosed yesterday that the group made at least £34m pretax profits last year. It hopes to hoist the total dividend 10 per cent and now has assets worth 302p a share.

The figures come from its formal defence document which details the reasons for the rejection of Lonrho's offer as "totally unacceptable" and says that shareholders should hold on to their "supervalued shares" and "supervalue assets".

Professor Roland Smith, Fraser's part-time chairman—who moved up from deputy chairman a month ago—said the board voted out Sir Hugh Fraser—said: "This company is a massive and marvellous giant which is beginning to wake. For anyone wishing to sell their shares in these conditions—well then money must be going out of fanny."

Mr Peter Spicer, a Lonrho director, said: "If the shares and assets are so super value, why does not Warburg's (Fraser's merchant bank advisers) make us a super offer for our shares?"

Professor Smith said that Fraser's profit figures come from trading boosted by a "very good January" and do not include any exceptional items or financial engineering of any kind. Profits mean the Group made £33m in the six months to the end of January, 12 per cent more than the previous second half and against £35.5m for 1979.

The dividend, likely to be lifted to a gross 9.42p, is expected to be covered on an inflation-adjusted Current Cost Accounting basis.

Both sides are claiming substantial institutional support. Professor Smith says there is evidence that the big institutions, which hold around 35 per cent of the total equity, fully support the defence document and will remain with the company. Mr Spicer said: "If I had to put a figure on our known support, I would say we had 40 per cent."

Fraser's long-awaited revaluation of its property by Cowi Riblat yields a total of £138.9m, a surplus of £185m over book value. For the first time Harrods is separated out and on an existing use basis is worth £95m.

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Pergamon declares 7pc stake in Collins

By Philip Robinson

Mr Robert Maxwell, who is awaiting BPC shareholders' approval for his proposed £100m takeover of the publishing group, disclosed yesterday that his private company, Pergamon Press, has acquired almost 7 per cent of William Collins & Sons (Holdings) the Glasgow-based publisher.

Collins, which owns Fontana paperback books, began to make losses in 1979 but has since been recovering.

Mr Duncan McGhie, the finance director, said: "We are not surprised at the stake. It was revealed only a few weeks ago that Withers Investments had bought 8.35 per cent, so people are buying our shares. There has been no contact between this group and Mr Maxwell other than the latter's representatives sent notifying us of it."

Pergamon began buying Collins shares last October under the name of Norman Nominees. It is believed its first buy was a parcel of 10,000 shares and by mid-November Collins had discovered that the beneficial owner was Pergamon.

In December Down Nominees began buying shares and within a fortnight Collins discovered this too was buying on behalf of Pergamon.

Mr McGhie said that Down Nominees continued as the main buyer of stock, but he did not yet know on what date the Pergamon holding went above 5 per cent, the level at which it is obliged by law to declare a stake. Pergamon's present holding is 282,500 shares, 6.86 per cent of the total voting equity.

Pergamon was building the Collins stake at the same time as Mr Maxwell was organizing a rescue package for BPC (formerly British Printing Corporation). Last July he staged a "dawn raid" in which he captured a 25.5 per cent stake in BPC.

Mr Maxwell was unavailable for comment last night but a spokesman for him at BPC's headquarters said: "He's spending most of his time on BPC matters. But he's not always physically here because he is touring the plants and attending meetings."

to the end of June 1982 should be "at least" 30 cents.

These transactions will be financed by issuing Minorco shares. The assets are valued at about \$80m, and Minorco will issue another 59.3 million shares representing a capital increase of 35.4 per cent. The stake in Coas Gold is equally held by Doe Beers and Anglo American.

As a result, Anglo American's stake in Minorco will rise from 32 per cent to 42 per cent, and Doe Beers' stake will be 23 per cent instead of 16 per cent. Charter's stake in Minorco will fall, however, to 10 per cent from 14.7 per cent.

Mr Harry Oppenheimer, chairman of Anglo, Doe Beers and Minorco, said yesterday that an enlarged Minorco would allow the Anglo group to expand, particularly into North America.

He said: "We want Minorco to be big and powerful enough to, as far as possible, finance itself so that it is not a question when you want to do international business of always having to export money from South Africa."

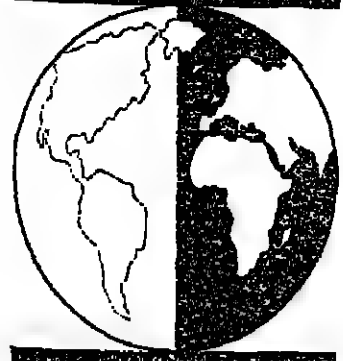
After the restructuring Minorco's assets should be about \$2,000m against \$650m at the end of last year. Earnings per share could rise from 27 cents a share last year to 45 cents a share in the current year, if the reorganisation goes through.

A crucial aspect of the operation, Mr Oppenheimer said, is that Minorco will escape from holding about 75 per cent of its assets in one company, Engelhard Minerals, an American mining and precious metal refining concern.

Net asset value per share is forecast to grow by 83 cents to \$12.05, and debt will be reduced as a proportion of shareholders' funds.

The decline revealed in the latest quarterly survey of shipbuilding performance worldwide and published by Lloyd's

Register of Shipping, coincided with the formal opening of a new training centre for shipyard workers on Tyne.



Iraq oil flow to Syria restarts

Iraq has resumed pumping crude oil at the rate of 50,000 barrels a day through the trans-Mediterranean pipeline to Syria. Oil flow to the Syrian terminal at Banias has been interrupted twice since the Iran-Iraq war broke out on September 22.

The crude is not expected to reach Banias and the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli until Saturday. Iraq and Syria agreed to a short experimental period during which only 50,000 barrels of crude a day will be pumped.

Iraqi terminals at the northern flank of the Gulf have been bombed by Iranian aircraft and gunboats for the past five months. Syria has earned \$25m (£11m) a year in transit fees for Iraqi crude passing through. —AP-Dow Jones.

French unemployment

The French National Statistics Institute forecasts a sharp acceleration in unemployment during the first half of this year despite the Government's youth employment scheme, falling output and persistent inflation.

French deficit

France's current account deficit for 1980 is now estimated at 31,100m francs (about £2,827m) compared with a surplus of 4,913m in 1979 and a surplus exceeding 15,000m in 1978.

Mexican investment

Mexico plans to invest about \$3,400m (£1,514m) in its basic petrochemicals industry over the next five years. The investment will provide for the construction of nearly 50 processing plants.

Rupee revalued

The Reserve Bank of India said it had revalued the rupee against the pound by 0.54 per cent to a new middle rate of 18.45 from 18.55. The new buying and selling rates are £5.4948 and £5.4054 per 100 rupees.

French GDP

France's gross domestic product declined a provisional real 0.3 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1980 after a 0.3 per cent third quarter gain and a 0.5 per cent rise in fourth quarter 1979, the National Statistics Institute said.

Italy Eurocredit

Italy's Societa Italiana per l'Esercizio telefonico has signed a 10-year \$100m (£40.7m) Eurocredit, increased from the original \$75m. The credit carries a 4 1/2 per cent grace period.

Oil search

Major oil discoveries off the coast of China are likely by late 1982 or early 1983, Conoco executives believe. Negotiations on concessions are expected to begin later this year, with exploration to start in early 1982.

Minicars move

Osaka Motor Company, the Japanese taxi and parking meter maker, said it plans from next April to produce Italian-designed minicars with engines and parts supplied from Italy.

Oil products prices

Consumer prices for oil products sold inside the European Economic Community dropped sharply in mid-February to 94 per cent on February 16 from 102 per cent the previous week.

More US cars

Car production in the United States this week will be about 132,947 cars, a 1.5 per cent fall from last week's 131,003 but 12.3 per cent down on the same week last year.

Oil talks fail

Japan and China have failed to reach an agreement on the price of China's crude oil for this year, Japanese industry sources said.

Worries on foreign holiday travel as recession bites into spending

Tour operators expect tighter year

British travel operators will be unable to maintain the spectacular growth rate of last year during 1981 and profit margins are likely to fall due to more competitive pricing, according to a new report on the sector published yesterday.

The latest Jordan financial survey on United Kingdom travel agents and tour operators says that the main question troubling the industry is whether the current strong demand for foreign holidays will continue as the recession bites into consumer spending.

Mr Robert Tiltcher, the Grieverson Grant stockbroker, says in the introduction to the survey that most tour operators' profits have been extremely healthy during the 1980 financial year.

Though the growth rate is not likely to continue, rewards should remain strong, and the flexibility now apparent in all of the major operators should mean that 1981 will be another successful year.

The report singles out Thomas Cook as the most profitable operator, with a ratio

of pre-tax profits to sales of 19.61 per cent. Using the formula of pre-interest profits to tangible capital employed, the small Yugoslav company led the field, with Thomson Travel and Britannia Airways, the linked market leaders, coming seventh and fifteenth respectively.

Mr Tiltcher is particularly critical of the performance of British Airways in the charter market which he says, has led tour operators such as Horizon and Intasun to increase their own charter aircraft fleets.

The state airline presented a "dismal and depressing scenario", Mr Tiltcher said. Excess capacity and overmanning were characteristic of its problems, and future investment in new aircraft had been cancelled or delayed. BA's projections for growth, which envisaged an increase in passengers from 17 million in 1980 to about 30 million in 1986, now appeared to be rather optimistic.

Trading margins were likely to be under severe pressure during next year and it

would appear highly likely that a last appraisal of the loan limit which was last month raised by £85m.

The report says that Laker can be expected to play a major part in the rapidly-expanding travel industry in the 1980s, but the group's package tour operations face a problem of potential excess capacity.

Laker's acquisition of the new A300 Airbus will increase the carrier's capacity by some 50 per cent over that of 1980, and by 100 per cent next year, considerably more than any expected rate of increase in the holiday market.

The report comments: "The budgeted programme of expansion for Laker is very ambitious and will need a particularly aggressive marketing strategy for it to succeed."

British travel agents & tour operators, Jordan Surveys, £85.

David Hewson

Japanese choose assisted area in Wales for battery factory

By Edward Townsend and Peter Hazelhurst

Yuasa Battery, which makes products for the electronics industry, has become the latest Japanese company to choose a United Kingdom assisted area for new manufacturing investment. It has plans for a factory in South Wales eventually employing 270 people.

The announcement, made by Yuasa during a visit to Tokyo by Mr Nicholas Edwards, the Secretary of State for Wales, provides another boost for the Government's assisted area policy and follows the decision by Nissan to establish a £300m car manufacturing plant in the United Kingdom.

The arrival of Yuasa, which has selected a site on the Rassau industrial estate in Ebbw Vale, is seen as adding strength to Nissan's attempts to attract the Nissan investment. Mr Edwards had already said during his visit that Wales had four suitable sites although he

stressed that the same level of help and cooperation could be found in other areas of the United Kingdom.

Like the proposed Nissan plant, the Yuasa project will qualify for regional development grants covering 22 per cent of the capital cost plus discretionary assistance under Section 7 of the Industry Act.

Mr Yuichi Yuasa, president of the company, said a definite decision on the plant would be given after the conclusion of negotiations. The "clinging factor" in choosing Wales was the quality of the labour force. The company had considered many countries in Europe, but none could match the high standards of the British worker.

The plan was to employ 140 in the first year rising to 270 and reaching full production by 1982. More than 70 per cent of battery output would be exported to Europe and the United States and most of the

raw materials and equipment would be bought locally.

Mr Edwards, who is leading an industrial investment mission to Japan, said: "I think it is a great compliment that after looking at so many other countries, the company has formed such a favourable impression of the Welsh labour force. I know that that has been the experience of other industrialists."

A German company based at Rassau had told him that production was as high if not higher than in their parent company. "The local people are extremely adaptable and will settle happily into the Japanese style of management," Mr Edwards said. Yuasa produces industrial batteries for security alarm equipment, mini computers and emergency lighting. It is capitalised at £12m and controlled by stockholders such as Yuasa Hardware, Mitsui Life Insurance, Mitsui Trust, Nippon Life Insurance and Mitsui Bank.

New guide to charities accounting methods

By Sylvia Morris

A report published yesterday by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales recommends a more consistent approach to accounting methods used by charities.

The report, which includes a survey of 85 of the largest fund raising charities and 50 smaller ones, reveals a wide variety of accounting methods which makes it difficult to compare accounts. Identifying the problem areas, it also sets out guidelines for a more consistent practice.

These are not designed to involve charities in additional effort and expenses. According to Peter Bird and Peter Morgan-Jones, the authors, many charities are already using a lot of effort to produce complex accounts which are difficult to understand.

The suggestions they hope will redirect rather than increase this effort to result in a more intelligible and useful set of accounts. Financial reporting by charities, Publications Department, The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, PO Box 433, Chartered Accountants' Hall, Moorgate Place, London, EC2, Price £8.95.

Union campaign to halt Tate & Lyle closure

By David Felton

Five unions in the sugar refining industry yesterday launched a campaign to prevent the closure of Tate & Lyle's Liverpool refinery with the loss of what the unions estimate will be more than 1,500 jobs.

The unions have produced a research document, which has been delivered to Mrs Thatcher, MPs and British members of the European Parliament. It argues that there are alternatives to the closure of the Love Lane refinery, opened more than 100 years ago.

The document calls for a change in EEC rules on sugar production and restrictions on the 150,000-plus tonnes which are imported into Britain each year. In the meantime, while negotiations take place at Brussels on sugar quotas the unions want the Government to provide regional aid to the Liverpool plant.

The unions supporting the campaign are the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, Transport and General Workers, General and Municipal Workers, Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union.

Mr Terence Comerford, an ASTMS national officer, said yesterday that the unions accepted there was over-production in the refined sugar industry, but consumption over the past few years had moved in cycles and the unions did not want the United Kingdom unable to meet increased demands in later years.

He said the unions believed sugar imports were running at almost 200,000 tonnes a year, and as the Liverpool refinery had 300,000 tonnes a year capacity, restrictions of imports would have a big effect.

The unions argue that there is room within the United Kingdom sugar market for both Tate & Lyle in its present form and a slimmed down British Sugar Corporation, which has announced plans to close four sugar beet processing factories.

Mr Comerford said that Britain did a substantial amount of trade with cane sugar exporting countries, which could be lost if a decision was taken to cut back on production.

The unions also object to part of Britain's contribution to the EEC budget being used to support the sugar production of other European countries such as France and West Germany whose sugar industries are mainly based on refining home grown beet.

More coal than petroleum used last year

By Nicholas Hirst

Coal consumption in the United Kingdom during 1980 exceeded that of petroleum for the first time in a decade. But both coal and petroleum use declined sharply. Consumption of petroleum showed a 13 per cent fall to 121 million tonnes of coal equivalent—a standard energy measure—and coal falling 5.9 per cent to just under 122 million tonnes.

The fall in energy consumption has hit the coal and electricity industries hard, but allowed the United Kingdom to move into net oil self-sufficiency during the year.

Provisional figures for 1980 in *Energy Trends*, the Department of Energy's statistical bulletin, underline the problems

into which the National Coal Board has been driven.

Coal consumption in the three months ending in January was down by 7.3 per cent; more than the average drop during 1980 as a whole. Despite a seasonal draw of one million tonnes during January, coal stocks at the end of the month stood at 36.7 million tonnes, which was 10.4 million tonnes higher than a year ago.

The majority of these stocks were being financed by the coal board; the increase in stocks at power stations having risen only 2.5 million tonnes to 17.1 million tonnes.

Prices of coal from the third quarter 1979 to the third quarter 1980 had risen 18 per cent, and imports had risen by

two thirds to 7.3 million tonnes, offset partially by a rise in exports from 2.3 million tonnes to four million tonnes, sometimes made at a loss.

Electricity demand fell 4.7 per cent last year, but fuel use more by 5.9 per cent—indicating an improvement in efficiency. Coal use rose to a record 89.6 million tonnes while oil consumption fell 38.4 per cent to 11.2 million tonnes of coal equivalent.

The big falls in coal consumption were suffered by industry,

whose use fell 15.1 per cent in house coal, which declined 18.6 per cent and in coke ovens for the steel industry, where consumption was 22.9 per cent lower than in 1979.

The largest increase of all energy prices was in sales of gas to industry where prices rose 42 per cent between the third quarter 1979 and the third quarter 1980.

Consumption of natural gas during 1980 fell by 0.4 per cent, a fall since its introduction in the mid-sixties.

Profit jumps at NEB's vehicle finance arm

By Edward Townsend

Wholesale Vehicle Finance, the National Enterprise Board subsidiary which finances stock held by BL car and van distributors in the United Kingdom, increased its profit in the second year of operations by 75 per cent to £3,505,000.

The company's accounts for 1980, published yesterday, show that before charging interest of £381,250 on loan stock, the average rate of return on shareholders' funds was 22 per cent. This was 4 per cent higher than in 1979 and reflects increased interest rates and higher funding levels.

WVF was set up in 1979 with £100m of loan facilities to enable BL franchise holders to receive vehicles on a sale or return basis, funded by WVF, instead of buying them or paying bulk deposits. The dealers pay a display charge based upon current interest rates plus an operating margin.

The creation of WVF forged closer links between the NEB and City institutions. The Government recently passed legislation that when the Industry Bill becomes law, ownership of BL will be transferred from the

NEB to the Department of Industry, but Mr Alfred Singer, chairman of WVF, said in his annual statement that "so far as we know there is no proposal for transfer of ownership of WVF."

He added that prompted by the success of the company, a new subsidiary, WVF Commercial, had been formed to offer a stocking scheme for distributors of Leyland Vehicles, the BL bus and truck division.

He said that 1980 was a difficult year for the motor trade with falling sales, extreme price competition and very high interest rates. Although high charges are a problem it is generally recognized that these are due to national and international factors rather than to our own actions since WVF bases its charges on the interest it has to pay.

Prepayment deposits with BL Cars during the year were down to £101,399,000 from £111,501,000 the previous year, but display charges rose to £17,506,000 from £10,200,000. Mr Singer said: "Nineteen eighty was a year of great events for BL and possibly a turning point in its history."

Oil fund support for industry

From Mr Algy Cluff and others

Sir, The Budget will no doubt confirm the imposition of the proposed supplementary petroleum tax which will raise £1,000m to be used to reduce the public spending borrowing requirement (PSBR).

Apart from the regrettable precedent which this sets, being a levy on profits, much of the hostility both inside and outside the oil industry to this additional tax stems from the belief that it will go into the general revenue of the country and be frittered away rather than being used for the much needed re-growth of the British industry or being retained as cash flow in the oil industry and used in a number of ways which will in themselves produce benefits, including revenue, for the United Kingdom.

We therefore suggest that the proceeds of the proposed new petroleum tax should go into an Oil Development Fund whose purpose would be to regenerate the industrial life of this country.

The fund should apply itself particularly to the creation of new industries and to those industries and areas which are strong in ideas, management and labour but which are now being forced out of business. The fund should be used for the private sector of

industry as a large proportion of resources is already being allocated to the public sector often to the detriment of the private sector.

The fund should seek through new growth to promote employment. The scale of the money available from the proposed supplementary tax should make a considerable impact on these problems. The fund should for example be used to provide finance on a bigger scale than is available at present to enable entrepreneurs to develop new ideas, to help newly formed companies with good products to grow and to assist established companies with reasonable prospects to get through the present recession.

There are of course arguments against the proposal, for example that there are already public sector and private sector organizations which do the same jobs. But the fact remains that despite the resources and efforts being devoted to industry (and there is hope for more to come in the forthcoming Budget), the development of new industries is being held back and large areas of British industry which should be revived remain weak.

It is, of course, arguable that it is not another source of finance, however big and flexible, which is needed to revive industry but an end to the

world recession and a change in public sector policies; then a new look lean British industry would emerge ready to take on the world. However, there is little sign of the world recession ending, and it is difficult given the great momentum of public sector activities to get them under control when for years they have been running out of control.

How will it work in practice? We suggest that the controlling board should consist of industrialists and businessmen, including oil men, who can bring the necessary business exposure and flair to the task; that the executive staff should be imaginative and flexible; that the expenditure side of the accounts (for the provision of capital to industry rather than for the salaries and overheads of the fund) should seek annually to equal the income side; that the fund itself, though conducted on sound and not give-away principles, should not seek to make a "profit"; and that the business of the fund should be conducted with a sense of urgency even if that increases the risk.

ALGY CLUFF, MONTY FINNISTON, D. L. LUX, FRANK STEELE, Cluff Oil Limited, 58 St James's Street, London SW1A 1LD.

Business names register

From Miss Elizabeth Stanton

Sir, Today the House of Lords will have the chance to debate a Government proposal which has been condemned as a gravely false economy by lawyers, the business community and consumer organizations. Clause 29 of the Companies Bill, if passed, would abolish the Business names register.

The Business names register is the means whereby members of the public can trace the names of the people who are responsible in a firm, and if you are in serious dispute, it is essential to have the names and addresses of the individuals concerned, not just their trading name.

The register at present is not very satisfactory as it uses the resources of both civil servants

Share prices and inflation

From Mr Alastair C. Begg

Sir, It is misleading of Mr Danat (February 23) to suggest that share prices are indicating a recovery in industrial profitability. In real (inflation-adjusted) terms, the FT Actuaries Industrial Index has risen by only 9 per cent since November 1979, a time when MLR had just been raised to record levels and the outlook was just as bleak as it is today. Compared with its level at the time of the Government's election, the index has fallen by 4 per cent in nominal terms, and 25 per cent after allowing for inflation. Over the last ten years, the real value of share prices has fallen by almost half.

The argument for examining profits in the light of inflation is by no means spurious. Shareholders have much more right as wealth earners to expect remuneration to grow in line with the average price level.

ALASTAIR C. BEGG, Flat 1, 1 Milton Avenue, London, N6, February 23.

True level of gas price rise

From Mr Rex Calvert

Sir, The Gas Board announce a price increase of 15 per cent, to be followed by a second increase of 10 per cent. The BBC describe this as a total increase of 25 per cent. To the consumer it will no doubt be 25.5 per cent.

The United States President

proposes three successive tax reductions, each of 10 per cent. These, he says, will amount to 30 per cent. To the beneficiaries the total will surely be no more than 27.1 per cent.

REX CALVERT, 64 Bury Road, Newmillerdam, West Yorkshire.

Need for a comprehensive energy policy

From Mr Norman Jenkins

Sir, Could I, please, make another plea for energy strategy? Your first leader of February 19 on nuclear disarmament, the letter from Mr Ian Munro of Eurisol in the same issue on one aspect of energy conservation and today's (February 20) piece by Kenneth Owen on heat pumps are all excellent examples of entirely impartial examination of issues that the lower House or any rate, in common with the rest of the country, tends to leave to the experts? It is becoming increasingly clear to impartial technologists, economists and ecologists, as well as industry at large, that none of the nationalized industries can be trusted to formulate their own versions of energy policy without putting their specific interests before those of the consumer or the nation. Their interests are such that they cannot be blamed for the kind of ultimate zeal that is fostered by unlimited resources.

So long as these industries have the power to make independent decisions demanding priorities, consumer tariffs and depletion of reserves, and to use their weight to obstruct such developments as CHP (CHP at Hereford remains in isolation, replication is denied the same source of funds) while promoting heat pumps, there

cannot be any balance of these conflicting strategies. Heat pumps, incidentally, can be and is being misapplied while its need for duplicated heating equipment when the system ceases to function is ignored together with the reflex effect of peak loading encouragement, base load depression and increasing base tariffs. It is part of the same story but too long to go into here, nor should I anticipate publication in the near future in a much respected engineering journal.

What Sir J. Dalberg Acton said to Bishop Creighton in 1887, at the very birth of the electricity industry, applies today to shift the onus from disservice but, in this sense of strategy irresponsible industries, to an enlarged select committee may be to create absolute power, there is every hope—and likelihood—that the very nature of the job and its pushy, inevitable interests would cancel out the power that corrupts absolutely.

Yours faithfully, NORMAN JENKINS, Whitehall, Ewshot, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 5BS, February 20.

Intelligence of machines

From Professor Donald Michie

Sir, Mr David Torvell's letter (February 20) gives warning that Kenneth Owen's factual account of recent research encourages superstitious belief in intelligence in machines. Provided that Mr Torvell has some reason to think that Owen's readers might swallow something they should not, we must commend his concern to help them avoid it.

Unfortunately, however, Mr Torvell has himself swallowed something that he should not, not from Kenneth Owen's admirable account but, alas, from the names commonly attached to our discipline, "artificial intelligence" or "machine intelligence". We, the practitioners, are to blame for this.

The term "knowledge engineering", which many prefer, is on the other hand satisfactorily descriptive of current accomplishments. These can be described as the transfer of human expertise to machines in one or another domain of mental skill, together with the ability to display and explain the inference chains by which the machine arrives at its conclusions. As Owen makes clear, this new branch of software engineering, which can now be implemented on physically portable micro-computers, is burgeoning wherever the need is felt for "expert systems" able to give concrete aid to in-house experts.

At this point Mr Torvell stubs his toe on a specimen utterance of SRI International's Prospector system, "I am considering the possibility of a lead/zinc deposit", having confused it with cosmetic chat of the "Hullo Jimmy" type. This utterance is recognisably a fragment churned up from Prospector's self-explanatory facility. If one suspects that he has not Mr Torvell were actually to use an expert system, or even to see one in action, he would soon realize that such self-explanation is not a cosmetic additive, but on the contrary the heart of the system. It is indeed the critical feature differentiating the products of knowledge engineering from software products of standard design.

When such a system can give not only two-sided answers but also scientific justification of its conclusions, then we may begin to say that, in some sense the machine "understands" what it is doing or advising, and hence betrays glimmers of intelligence.

We are, as Mr Torvell notes, a long way from attaining this objective. Yet in some application areas it is a desirable one, for example for intelligent fault diagnosis of complex equipment. It should not be deliberately associated with people's minds with something so plainly undesirable as superstitious credulity.

Better advice would be to resolve to believe it when we see it, and meanwhile keep an eye open on the technical columns of *The Times*.

DONALD MICHIE, Machine Intelligence Research Unit, University of Edinburgh

THE SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY

109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5HN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 98th Annual General Meeting of the Members of The Scottish Mutual Assurance Society will be held within the Central Hotel, Gordon Street, Glasgow, G1 3SF on Wednesday, 25th March, 1981 at 12.15 p.m. to approve the Accounts, Balance Sheet and Reports of the Directors and Auditors, to re-elect Directors and to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.

Prints of the Society's Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet and Directors' Report can be obtained by Members at the Head Office of the Society or at any of its Branch Offices.

A Member of the Society entitled to attend and vote at any General Meeting is entitled to appoint another person (who need not be a Member of the Society) to attend and vote instead of him. Proxies must be lodged at the Head Office of the Society not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the Meeting.

Attention of Members wishing to attend is drawn to Regulations 5, 23 and 24 of The Scottish Mutual Assurance Society Act 1952.

By Order of the Board, R. E. MACDONALD, General Manager & Actuary.



N.V. KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSCHE PETROLEUM MAATSCHAPPIJ

Established at The Hague, The Netherlands

(Royal Dutch)

The Supervisory Board and the Board of Management of Royal Dutch Petroleum Company announce that pursuant to the amendment to the Articles of Association which will become effective on 2nd March, 1981, the par value of the shares of N.M. 20 has been changed to N.R. 10.

A stamp will have to be placed on the cover of the bearer share certificates, the text of which is as follows:

Pursuant to the amendment of the Articles of Association of 2nd March, 1981, this share certificate ranks as a certificate for double the number of shares of 10 guilders.

This stamping can be done at the offices of:

N.M. Rothschild & Sons Limited, London.

As from 2nd March, 1981, the shares will be traded on the Amsterdam stock exchange in the new denomination and new share certificates with a par value of N.R. 10 will be available.

The Hague, 27th February, 1981

The Board of Management

ICI's savage cut

Business Di

Shareholders in Minorco, which some have seen just as a way into Engelhard, can therefore look forward to strongly rising earnings. Indeed, they are already promised 20 cents a share next year compared with 12 cents this year. Shareholders in Anglo, De Beers and Charter will also benefit from large numbers of shares in Minorco, although because of the issue of Minorco shares Charter's percentage stake falls. Consolid may also be a little happier at being so much distanced from South Africa.

Technology

Can the Fed hit its targets?

The Fed points out that "this relationship is variable and not known with certainty because of the differences in reserve requirements on various components of the monetary aggregates which shift in relative importance from week to week. Moreover, in addition to required reserves, depository institutions

All things considered the Fed did not do too badly last year. The actual money supply growth rate for each of the money stock measures was only modestly above the targeted upper

For these reasons Mr Volcker was correct in telling Senators that their decisions on how much public spending to cut is crucial for the United States economic outlook.

Frank Vogl

Levitating all the way to the airport

Kenneth Owen

fortunate consequence, however, in that wheels come in useful also for propelling and braking the vehicle. Thus an alternative "non-contact" method of propulsion and braking is needed; rockets or aero-engines could in theory be used but the mixer, smoother

Electrical power is picked-up from conductor rails along the track and direct current is converted into variable-frequency alternating current to energize the magnets for lift and to power the linear motor for thrust.

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a modern building. The building features a large, dark, rectangular volume on the left and a curved, light-colored ramp or walkway in the foreground. The image is heavily stylized with a high-contrast, almost binary appearance, where most details are lost to deep blacks or bright whites. The ramp curves from the bottom left towards the center, leading the eye into the scene. The building's facade is composed of various rectangular blocks and openings, some of which are brightly lit, creating a stark contrast with the dark areas. The overall composition is geometric and abstract, emphasizing form and light over fine detail.

Each Maglev car will carry from 30 to 48 passengers. They will be whisked between airport terminal and railway station in about 90 seconds.

It is a far cry from the glamorous concepts of the high-speed maglev trains which have been extensively developed in Japan—but it could be the start of significant new business for British industry in the potentially lucrative area of moving people smoothly and efficiently from A to B, where A and B are fairly close together.

Business Diary: Caracas, carnivals and carnivores

The rest is familiar to students of piracy anywhere: the unsuspecting boat is boarded, the crew eliminated and the prize taken by the pirates back to port for respray and resale, just as if it were a knocked-off Mini undergoing transformation in a backstreet garage.



must be added). The armed forces have offered to improve patrols, but Diaz Cardenas also wants the boats to go to sea only in groups and to ensure one of their men is always in radio contact with the shore. Those ships that have been attacked have always been alone and did not have proper radio contact. In both cases it took five days before we knew of the attacks and by that time the pirates were long gone.

Back on wet land (cars are still splashing through the puddles left by unseasonal torrential rain) the authorities in Caracas are trying to get to grips with those who prey on this week. This, apart from being one almighty thrash for the populace, is often a benefit outing for petty criminals. On Caracas' main highway there is under way with more than 3,000 civil defence officers assigned to patrol the streets and recreation areas 24 hours a day—to prevent not merely crime but merry-makers from injuring themselves.

Crimes of passion and suicides occur regularly during the week-long bash, which has been described as a "true re-creation of the Middle Ages dance of the flames".

The authorities cannot legislate against crossed husbands and wives, but they are confident that theft by pilloon pas-

As may be imagined, this has not gone down well among the two-wheel fraternity, who object that innocent passengers are mugged while the *chico loco* mama shopping on the chiclo loco is now outlawed.

The police have so far shown no sign of relenting, despite growing pressure to do so. Last week, for example, hundreds of motor cyclists rode through Caracas in a cavalcade of protest against the ban.

It did not work, but a cavalcade of demonstrating drivers could well go unnoticed in Caracas. The oil-rich and petrol-cheap capital has a chronic traffic problem, despite its excellent four and eight-lane

of foodstuffs this week. In the past, this has not always been so. The native population has been swelled by immigrants seeking Caracas' streets of gold and the total number living in Venezuela is put variously at between 13 and 20 million. Farming has been unable to keep pace and this has sometimes led to food shortages.

There should be plenty for all during the present carnival. Even the fishing industry director at the ministry of agriculture has announced that there will be adequate supplies of fish and shrimp—enough for people and pelicans.

John Huxley

1980 Audited Annual Results

(for the year ended 31st December 1980)

	1980	1979
	£ million	£ million
Historical Cost Information		
Salvage	335.6	307.3
Added value	96.5	87.8
Trading profit	17.0	17.8
Interest	14.9	11.6
Profit before tax	2.1	6.2
Taxation	1.2	1.1
Profit attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	0.9	5.1
Dividends	1.5	2.9
Funds generated from operations	13.1	15.5
Average capital employed	211.2	200.4
Earnings per £1 Ordinary Share (net)	1.9p	11.5p
Dividend per £1 Ordinary Share	3.3p	6.6p
Number of employees (average)	5,302	5,784
Current Cost Information		
Operating loss	(14.6)	(7.4)
Interest	(14.9)	(11.6)
Gearing adjustment	8.6	7.0
Taxation	(1.2)	(1.1)
Loss attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	(22.1)	(13.1)
Loss per share (net)	(48.8p)	(29.8p)
In arriving at the current cost operating loss, the following adjustments were taken into account:-		
Additional depreciation	24.3	18.5
Cost of sales	5.1	5.5
Monetary working capital	2.2	1.2

The directors do not recommend the payment of a final dividend in respect of the year ended 31st December 1980.		31.6	25.2
<p>"As was anticipated in the interim report for 1980, our Company has operated at a loss in the period of 1980. The business recession in the United Kingdom reduced the overall volume of orders to uneconomic levels, most particularly in the rolled and extruded product areas, while at the same time the strength of sterling not only against the US dollar, but also vis-à-vis</p>		<p>The outlook for 1981 is for continuing losses and for a further significant increase in borrowings, due to economic conditions in the United Kingdom, to the current exchange value of the pound and (1) a reduced level of demand in European aluminium markets, and the prospects for resumption of dividend payments in the short term are poor."</p>	

To make certain these bonds were offset by improved output from the Lymington smelter, which operated close to capacity in 1984 and 1985, and the second half of 1986, the Government asked Kjella Green, who are to be congratulated on their achievement in winning the Queen's Award for Industry based on increased productivity.

Nevertheless, the effect on margins of the conditions mentioned above has been aggravated by continuing inflationary pressures on the cost of raw materials and the need to invest in new plant and equipment to improve efficiency and to cut costs in the use of electricity. For the latter two energy commodities your Company, in common with most of British industry, suffers an increasing financial penalty as compared with many of our foreign competitors.

Yours faithfully,
GIBBS & MANN

(Extract from Chairman's statement)

Following discussions between the directors of the Company and Alan Murray plc Limited ("Alan"), proposals were announced on 28th February 1987 for the acquisition by Alan of the 100% shareholding in the Company. The proposed acquisition is financed by new debt capital not already owned by Alan. David Nye, having committed Robert Fleming & Co. Limited, the directors and Robert Fleming & Co. Limited are now in receipt of the consent to the takeover shareholders of the Company for acceptance.

Copies of the full Report and Accounts available shortly from Alan Murray plc Limited, 100, Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 3JF, and Smiths Bar, Banbury, Oxon, OX15 8JN, England.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Late rally after ICI prompts retreat

The market was stopped in its tracks yesterday by news of ICI's first dividend cut since the war.

Immediate reaction to the news was for jobs to mark ICI's share price 20p lower to 270p. In order to stop the expected rush of selling orders, the manoeuvre partially succeeded, but over 4m shares still changed hands and the price dipped to 265p before recovering to 268p, a net loss on the day of 22p.

The rest of the market followed suit as share prices were marked sharply lower cutting short what had been a strong start to the session with the index 2.2 higher at 10.10. Indeed, dealers had been cheered by the apparent settlement of the waterworks' pay dispute and were looking forward to the Budget amid hopes of a reflationary package and 3 per cent cut in interest rates.

But the I.C.I. figures put a stop to that. It was only later in the day that Plessey's bumper third-quarter figures, announced at the same time, prompted dealers to rethink the extent of the damage. Plessey rose 11p to 317p.

In the event, supported by new-time buying, the market was able to recoup some of the losses and, having been 10.4 lower at 4pm, the FT index eventually closed 4.2 off at 497.8.

Business in gilt dried up with prices drifting lower in thin trade. Confidence is still high that there will be a cut

in interest rates before the Budget, but the failure of one to materialize yesterday came as no real surprise. In longer, prices closed 1/2 lower, having fluctuated within narrow limits for most of the day, while in shorts the figure was as much as 1/2.

Leading industrials took the brunt of the upper in I.C.I., but had recovered much of their poise by the close. Unilever, where figures are due next week, slipped 3p to 483p but nervousness ahead of Fison's figures, due out Monday, clipped 7p from its price at 133p. Falls were also seen in Becton 3p to 161p, Dunlop 1p to 64p, Metal Box 6p to 38p, Turner & Newall 3p to 75p, GKN 3p to 146p and Glaxo 4p to 274p. Hawker Siddeley resisted the trend with a 2p rise to 386p. Courtaulds at 61p, and Lucas Industries at 183p held steady.

Newcomer British Aerospace succumbed to profit taking and dipped 3p to 178p.

British Sugar ended the day 3p lower at 283p still awaiting the Monopolies report to the bid from S & W Berisford, down 11p at 171p, due out next Tuesday. Lonrho held its 1p rise at 101p on the back of its Observer acquisition from Atlantic Richfield, while House of Fraser put on the same at 148p in response to publication of its defence document. But Robertson Food's decision to reject the approach from Avana left the shares 4p lower at 159p.

Letrasat eased 2p to 105p on

news of the sale of its New York auction rooms and Alcon retreated 6p to 31p following a statement from the board on recent speculative attention.

Tesco softened 1p to 58p on its latest trading review and in engineering, Burnett & Hallamshire improved 25p to 938p on news of an overseas contract while Westland Aircraft hardened 3p to 130p on favourable comment.

Among other companies reporting, Gripperads dipped 10p to 128p, London Shop Property 2p to 133p, Tace 4p to 26p, Westward Daves 2p to 21p, Ariel Industries 3p to 38p, and Spencer Clark 3p to 38p, all following their various trading statements. But bright spots were seen in Footwear Industries 4p to 50p, and Ward Holdings 2p to 55p.

Their tight conditions and impressive profits from Plessey ensured a firm finish in the electrical sector. Racal closed unchanged at 363p with GEC recovering most of its earlier losses to close just 1p lower at 645p. Electro-com-

ponents were a strong market rising 10p to 678p with speculative buying coming to the aid of Cray Electronics 6p to 112p and Electronics 8p to 147p.

Oils were still benefiting from the seventh round licences, expected any time. BP advanced 12p to 410p, Shell 8p to 420p, Ultramar 5p to 480p, and Barmah was unchanged at 181p. But falls were seen in Tricentrol, 2p to 310p, Lasso, 3p to 649p and Ranger Oil 10 to 615p.

In banks, National Westminster made progress in the wake of recent figures climbing 3p to 373p, while Barclays on 40p and Lloyds on 330p held steady. But Midland slipped 5p to 331p. Continuing hopes of a bid from Lloyds again lifted Grindlays 5p to 178p.

In properties, lack of interest failed to support share prices and falls were seen in MEPC 6p to 24p, Land Securities 3p to 395p, and Hamersley "A" 10p to 635p.

Insurance shares were still subdued by recent disappointing figures from Commercial Union, down 2p to 155p. But by the close prices showed some recovery with General Accident on 312p, GBE on 332p and Sun Alliance on 784p all unchanged. The royal wedding continued to be of some comfort to beef some comfort to several of the companies likely to be closely linked with the celebrations. Black & Edgington rose 1p to 39p, aided by comment, along with Staffordshire, 1p to 15p, while Trusthouse Forte closed unchanged at 204p. But profit taking left Royal Worcester 4p lower at 50p and Birmingham Mint a similar figure at 22p.

Alcan passes final payout as profits tumble to £2m

By Mariareta Pagano

As the minority shareholders of Alcan Aluminium UK are deciding whether to accept the Canadian parent's £12m offer to buy them out, the group has announced that it operated at a loss in the second half last year. The final dividend has been passed.

Yesterday's results showed that the 78 per cent-owned British subsidiary made pre-tax profits of £2.1m in the year to December against profits of £6.2m last time. Sales were up to £335.6m against £307m. Current cost accounts show that the operating loss was £14.5m, interest charges were £14.5m and, after a gearing adjustment of £3.6m, the attributable loss was £22.1m, compared with £13m last year. Total borrowings now stand at £104.7m, an increase of £13m over 1979.

With the final dividend being passed, the gross payment for the year is 4.7p. Last year's total was 9.42p gross. The shares were suspended on February 3 at 52p on news that the parent was bidding for full control.

Mr Dennis Pinn, the chair-



Mr Dennis Pinn, chairman of Alcan Aluminium.

man, said the results were in line with forecasts made at the interim stage when profits were £7.5m. He said, however, that there would be continued losses in 1981, a significant increase in borrowings and poor prospects for a return to dividend payments in the short term.

The board has recommended shareholders to sell the minority 22 per cent stake at the offer price of 120p a share from

Alcan, Canada. It is held that with its problems, Alcan would be better protected as a wholly owned subsidiary of the company. The stake is held by 2,600 United Kingdom individuals and institutions holding 10m shares out of total issued shares of 44m.

After good first-half figures the decline in demand in the domestic market hit hard in the middle of last year. Although streamlining began in 1979 the group was forced to make 480 redundancies, cutting the workforce to 8,000, and many plants were on short-time working. Most are now back to a five day week.

Overall business volume fell sharply to uneconomic levels, particularly in rolled and extruded products where main customers are the building, motor and packaging industries. Destocking is thought to be over. The effect on profit margins of the strong pound, rising transport energy, rates and communications costs bit deep. Most of British industry, Mr Pinn said, suffers an "unacceptable penalty" for energy costs compared with foreign competitors.

Receivers named for Whiteley

The share suspension of B S & W Whiteley at 6p three days ago was the prelude yesterday to the appointment of the directors of Whiteley to receivers of the 6 per cent debenture stock 1984-89 of a "serious adverse financial position".

In accordance with the trust deed, Mr Richard Agutter and Mr Guy Parsons, partners in Peat, Marwick, Mitchell, the accountants, have been appointed joint receivers and managers. Already approaches have been received which may lead to offers for parts of Whiteley's business, and the group continues to trade. One such subsidiary is thought to be Post Paper Mills at Oley in West Yorkshire. But it is as yet too early to say whether ordinary shareholders would get anything. The position could become clearer next week.

Whiteley is an electrical insulating pressboard manufacturer. It's

domestic sales rose by 10 per

cent. Swiss interest held 30

per cent of the shares and at the

last count Prudential Assurance held

a further 7 per cent.

Reorganization at Charterhouse Group

By Roman Eisenstein

The Charterhouse Group, the financial group which owns Charterhouse Japan, one of the City's accepting houses, is being reorganized. It is now to be run through five distinct operating divisions each headed by its own managing director.

A new appointment is that of Mr Geoffrey Rowett as group chief executive. He is also being appointed deputy chairman of the group in succession to Mr Derek Wilde, who is retiring.

Mr John Hyde, who is to be chairman and chief executive of Charterhouse Japan, is taking up his post on April 1. Aged 53, he has been chief executive of Chemical Bank International since 1977. Mr Hyde is to be responsible for the implementation of the merger with Keyser Ullmann agreed last year.

The present accounting period will therefore run for 16 months to October 31, 1981, and unaudited results for the 12 months to June 1981 will be published in September.

AEG loss three times larger than forecast

By Roman Eisenstein

AEG-Telefunken, West Germany's second largest electrical group, recorded a loss of DM300m (£63.8m) in 1980, larger than the forecast loss of DM100m, but lower than the DM651m loss in 1979.

The company attributed 1980's loss mainly to extraordinary and unexpected costs arising from efforts to restructure the group and return it to profitability.

It said it expected 1981 sales to grow beyond the 1980 figure of DM15,000m, but added that growth would not match 1980's

Sharp rise in first half at Footwear

By Our Financial Staff

Footwear Industry Investments, the shoe manufacturer, increased its interim pre-tax profits from £83,000 to £255,000. The dividend has been maintained at 2.2p gross.

Mr Monty Sumray, the company's chairman, points out that the results for the six months to the end of last November should be seen against the background of a depressed previous first half.

In the last financial year Footwear had spent £810,000 on factory closures and reorganization. But Mr Sumray says that the benefits are now showing through in profits, although turnover is down from £6.2m to £5.79m.

After-tax profits were £120,000, compared with £40,000, giving earnings a share of 3.2p against 1.0p. Pre-tax profits for the last full year were £321,000, with a substantial improvement coming in the second half.

The shoe factories in Wales were the main source of the profits increase. Footwear has a big order to make ladies shoes for Marks & Spencer. The company also benefited from high interest rates on its £1.25m cash balances.

Mr Sumray said that merchanting orders for Quality Shoes, whose manufacturing operations were closed as part of the reorganization last year, are picking up. He expects merchanting to make a good contribution to profits in the next financial year.

Loss of \$81m at Massey

By Roman Eisenstein

Massey-Ferguson yesterday reported a first-quarter net loss of \$21.4m (£3.7m), but said it expects progressive improvement during the remaining three quarters.

The loss for the three months to January 31 compares with a \$12.6m loss a year ago and is made up of an operating net loss of \$10.1m and an exchange gain of \$20.5m. The 1980 loss

included exchange losses of \$31.3m.

Massey announced in December that it expected a loss of about \$100m in the first quarter.

Mr Victor Rice, the chairman, said he expected improvement this year because of increased confidence after Massey's refinancing plan and as a result of stronger markets, particularly in North America.

Lend Lease improves

By Roman Eisenstein

Lend Lease Corporation, Australia's largest property development and management group, lifted consolidated operating profit after tax by 15.6 per cent to A\$11m (£5.5m) for the six months to last December.

Revenue for the six months increased by 11.8 per cent to A\$203.5m while investment and

other income was steady at A\$2m.

The interim dividend has been maintained at 7.5 cents, in line with the 15 cents paid for the full 1979-80 year.

The directors expect that the operating profit for the full year will be not less than A\$23m, which compares with A\$20.35m for 1979-80.

Briefly

Whitley Bay Entertainment: Wm Speke and company have acquired a further 440 shares on behalf of US\$81.4m (£13.7m).

Thomas Walker: Turnover for half year to December 31 1980 (£269,000). Pre-tax profit, £52,000 (£66,500). EPS 0.97p (£0.88p). Interest paid at 0.24p gross.

Alcon and Sons has issued a statement saying they are not aware of any special circumstances to explain the recent share rise in the price of the company's shares. The shares rose steeply on Tuesday.

Spencer Clark Metal Inds: Mr D. M. Howarth, chairman, told the annual meeting that the company's trading situation had deteriorated further and it was now trading at best in a break-even situation. He was still optimistic that this position would improve over the next few months.

London Ship Property Trust: has announced an interim dividend of 1.0p, payable on April 30.

John Madland Holdings: N dividend on ordinary shares for year to October 31. Turnover £4.76m (£3.97m). Pre-tax profit £514,000 (£398,000). EPS 12.2p (£7.7p).

Westwood Daves: Turnover for year to December 31 £2,451m (£2.2m). Pre-tax profit £91 (£122,000). EPS 1.13p (£4.48p). No div for year (£2.5p net). CCA interest £21,000.

Capital and National Trust: Net revenue for half year to January 31 £483,000 (£571,500) after tax. Net per share 213.2p (£179.5p). Interim, 2.25p already announced.

St James's Advertising & Publishing is changing its name to St James's Corporate Communications, and moving offices to St James's House, 47, Red Lion Court, London EC4A 3EB.

British Assets Trust: Directors have declared a first quarterly interim dividend on the ordinary shares of 0.95p per share payable on March 2, 1981. The company has repaid a loan of \$16m.

Court ruling on Bonnerpark deal

After a High Court ruling yesterday, the Royco land and property group will become a wholly owned subsidiary of the private Bonnerpark group, run by property millionaire Mr Roy Strudwick.

Bonnerpark, which already owns 75 per cent of the ordinary shares of Royco, has offered 60p for the cancellation of each of the remaining shares. But the scheme, which has been opposed by some Royco shareholders since the first bid last January, was again rejected by Mr Malcolm Douglas, chairman of Willowgreen, holding 35,000 shares.

Squeeze on margins hits Brown Brothers

Brown Brothers Corporation suffered with everybody else by Rosemary Unsworth associated with the motor trade in its first half and profits crashed by £1.7m.

Although turnover remained fairly steady at £43.7m compared with the previous year's £47.1m, margins were forced sharply down and pre-tax profits fell from £1.85m to £153,000 in the six months to December 31. The interim dividend has been passed. Last year Brown paid an interim of 1.43p gross.

Interest charges rose steeply during the period from £470,000 to £607,000 as borrowings climbed from £3.8m to £6.4m. Stocks increased by £900,000, although compared with the year end they have fallen.

Sir Montague Frichard, the chairman, said that trading conditions continue to be very difficult and no relief can be foreseen in the immediate future.

The group has made 400 workers redundant in its engineering and distribution subsidiaries. The cuts are reflected in the figures. Brown Brothers Engineering losses worsened in the six months although the central heading company performed well.

However, parts of the motor trade distribution operation, such as replacement parts, had a reasonable six months and the group said that although it was taking steps to improve efficiency it was reluctant to close down branches which have been carefully built up, to avoid damaging future prospects.

Dana Corporation, which has a 69 per cent stake, is changing its year end and Brown's board will alter its accounting period accordingly.

The present accounting period will therefore run for 16 months to October 31, 1981, and unaudited results for the 12 months to June 1981 will be published in September.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fld	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
A I Industries (F)	19.39(19.26)	0.77(0.11)	5.67(0.77)	0.01(0.01)	16/4	0.01(0.85)
Ariel Inds (I)	3.56(3.55)	0.06(0.02)	0.91(0.21)	—	—	—
Albright & Wilson (F)	412.3(385.7)	0.28(18.9)	—	—	—	—
Alcan Aluminium (F)	335.6(307.3)	2.1(6.2)	—	—	—	3.3(6.6)
Brown Bros (I)	43.7(47.2)	0.15(1.85)	0.12(1.9)	—	—	—
Burroughs Mach (F)	148.0(135.7)	20.8(26.4)	—	—	—	—
Capital & National (I)	—	0.48(0.57)	—	—	—	—
Gripperads (I)	8.49(6.96)	0.55(0.55)	10.6(10.7)	2.25(2.23)	4/4	—
John Hadland (F)	4.76(3.97)	0.5(0.39)	12.8(8.37)	—	—	—
ICI (F)	113.5(136.8)	284(613)	2.12(79.2)	5.1(2.1)	3/4	17(22)
Plessey (*)	603(526)	60.7(35.4)	16.75(9.57)	3.22(2.93)	15/5	—
Ratcliffs (F)	—	0.09(0.05)	—	0.75(—)	—	1.5(2.5)
Ronal Tea (F)	2.42(2.33)	0.48(0.33)	43.4(48.8)	22.5(22.5)	—	22.5(22.5)
Tale (F)	13.29(14.3)	0.3(0.27)	2.42(0.57)	—	—	0.9(2.0)
Thomas Walker (I)	0.96(0.87)	0.06(0.06)	0.59(0.88)	0.16(0.16)	2/5	—
Ward Holdings (F)	12.81(11.75)	1.58(2.34)	16.5(25.6)	3.01(3.01)	—	4.2(4.2)
Westwood Daves (F)	2.45(2.2)	0.009(0.12)	1.13(4.48)	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross profit the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. * For 9 months. † Loss. ‡ Net.

JOINT COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT

MINERALS AND RESOURCES CORPORATION LIMITED (MINORCO)

(Incorporated in Bermuda)

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED (AAC)

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

DE BEERS CONSOLIDATED MINES LIMITED (DE BEERS)

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

CHARTER CONSOLIDATED LIMITED (CHARTER)

(Incorporated in England)

(together referred to as "the companies")

The boards of directors of the companies announce that, subject to the approval of Minorco shareholders and other necessary consents being received, agreement has been reached on certain proposals developed in consultation between the companies.

The aim of the proposals is to enlarge the asset base of Minorco thereby reinforcing its position as an international mining finance group with a better balanced and diversified portfolio of strategic investments. This in turn will further strengthen the investments of AAC, De Beers and Charter in Minorco.

The proposals will be achieved by the acquisition by Minorco of substantial holdings in Consolidated Gold Fields Limited (Consolidated) and Charter and, through an additional shareholding in Anglo American Corporation of Canada Limited (Amcan), a further indirect interest in Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited (Hudbay), three major natural resource and industrial groups holding widespread international investments.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSALS

An overall summary of the proposals as they affect each of the companies, and their inter-related effect, is as follows:

Minorco

(i) PROPOSED TRANSFERS OF ASSETS TO MINORCO

- £3,983,750 ordinary shares of Consogold (representing an interest of 28.9 per cent);
- 37,646,075 ordinary shares of Charter (representing an interest of 35.8 per cent); and
- all the ordinary shares and promissory notes of Amcan not already owned by Minorco (thereby making Amcan a wholly-owned subsidiary of Minorco and increasing Minorco's interest in Hudbay, Amcan's major investment, to 44.8 per cent).

(ii) PROPOSED SETTLEMENT BY MINORCO

In consideration for the above transfers of assets, valued in aggregate at US\$807.436 million it is proposed that Minorco will issue a total of 59,328,640 ordinary shares which would represent an increase of 59.4 per cent in Minorco's issued share capital. This aggregate value has been determined by valuing listed investments at the average of their market values during the four week period ended 24th February, 1981 and unlisted investments at agreed valuations. The issue price of the new Minorco shares is based on its average market value during the same four week period.

The new shares to be issued by Minorco will not qualify for the interim dividend of 6 US cents per share declared by Minorco in respect of the six month period ended 31 December 1980 but will rank pari passu in all other respects with the existing issued ordinary shares. Subject to these proposals being implemented, and to no unforeseen circumstances arising, Minorco intends to declare a final dividend of 16 US cents per share in respect of the financial year ending 30 June 1981 and total dividends of at least 30 US cents per share in respect of the financial year ending 30 June 1982.

AAC and its associate

It is proposed that AAC will transfer its investment in the undermentioned assets to Minorco:

- 28,991,875 ordinary shares of Consogold;
- 37,646,075 ordinary shares of Charter; and
- 29,000 special class shares and Canadian \$10,064,835 promissory notes of Amcan.

In consideration for the above, it is proposed that Minorco will issue to AAC 36,305,850 new ordinary shares of Minorco. An associate of AAC will transfer to Minorco its 7,250 special class shares and Canadian \$2,894,086 promissory notes of Amcan in consideration for the issue to it of 588,708 new ordinary shares of Minorco.

De Beers

It is proposed that De Beers will transfer its investment in the undermentioned assets to Minorco:

- 28,991,875 ordinary shares of Consogold; and
- 14,500 special class shares of Amcan.

In consideration for the above, it is proposed that Minorco will issue to De Beers 21,307,265 new ordinary shares of Minorco.

Charter

It is proposed that Charter will transfer to Minorco its 13,852 special class shares and Canadian \$4,779,179 promissory notes of Amcan in consideration for the issue to it of 1,124,797 new ordinary shares of Minorco.

EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSALS

On Minorco

For Minorco the principal results of these proposals will be the acquisition of important interests in the following mining finance and natural resources organisations:

- Consogold, a United Kingdom-based group whose principal activities relate to the development of natural resources and include the financing and management of subsidiaries and associated companies. These companies operate in the fields of mining, exploration, construction materials, manufacturing and commerce and hold strategic investments in the United Kingdom and Europe, South Africa, the United States and Canada, and Australia. The largest contribution to Consogold's profits is from gold mining both directly in South Africa gold mines and indirectly through its 46 per cent interest in Gold Fields of South Africa Limited, a mining finance house with a portfolio of investments, principally in gold mining companies and to a lesser extent in companies engaged in the mining and processing of base metals and minerals and in finance, industry and property.

Charter, a United Kingdom-based group engaged in the financing and development of mining operations and industrial companies. The activities of the industrial companies include metal refining and the manufacture of mining equipment, building and insulation products, refrigeration and heating equipment and railway track components. A subsidiary has recently announced its participation in a joint venture to acquire the leading supplier of rail track re-profiling services in the United States. The mining interests relate mainly to wolfram mining in Portugal and France, tin mining in Malaysia, potash mining in the United Kingdom and the mining of zinc and lead in the Republic of Ireland. On 25 February 1981 Charter announced agreement (subject to fulfilment of certain conditions) with the British Petroleum group for the acquisition by Charter of the Alexander Shand group of companies (Shand) which is a leading producer of open-cast coal under contract to the National Coal Board in the United Kingdom, and is also involved in building, civil and mechanical engineering and related activities. It is planned to develop Shand's open-cast coal operations in the United States and elsewhere.

Amcan, which holds 44.8 per cent of the capital of Hudbay, Hudbay, in addition to its copper and zinc mining interests in the province of Manitoba and the Yukon, Canada, is the holder of 54

FINANCIAL NEWS

Reduced workload and increased costs depress profits at Ward

Our Financial Staff
A depressed housing market has led to a sharp fall in demand for second-hand houses, though first-time buyers are still in the market. To cope with this, Kent House-ward Holdings switched to building more expensive units to cater for the first-time buyer. But delays averaging three months in changing planning approval on sites, and much higher interest rates, combined with a lower overall load meant profits for the year to October 31 fell almost a third to £1.58m. The dividend has been maintained at 6p.

Interest costs rose to just under £1.25m, and the reduced workload meant that overheads took a larger slice out of group profits. Building costs rose too, with materials up by a tenth on average, and labour costs roughly 20 per cent higher, since the summer.

The first half of this year should see some benefits from the switchover. With the change of strategy, the group would now be selling very few

houses. Mr Frank Cooper, the Finance Editor, said, though there were faint indications of reviving demand for bigger houses.

The company has a substantial land bank — enough to keep it building for seven years at the current low level of demand, according to Mr Cooper, and for perhaps five years if demand improves. Borrowings are being contained at around £5m annually. But profits will not improve a great deal until interest rates fall and demand for larger houses, where the better margins lie, is restored.

Payout halved as Ariel Industries falls sharply

By Our Financial Staff
Ariel Industries, the Leicester engineering group, has halved the interim dividend to 0.8p gross following a sharp fall in profits from £420,000 to £56,000 pre-tax in the six months to September 30.

Ariel's sales were down from £9.55m to £3.56m, reflecting the impact of recession in the home market and the loss of exports because of unhappiness in Iran and Iraq — both important markets. Mr Kenneth Edwards, chairman, said disruption in the Middle East had cost about £200,000 in lost profit and the strong pound had also impeded exporting which, in the past, usually accounted for around a third of group sales.

Two of the group's three main businesses — industrial fasteners and closures for the food industry — made losses and there has been short-time working. But the aircraft component business was doing well and had kept the group in profit.

Mr Edwards held out little hope that the second half would be better. "We are not seeing the upturn," he said, and de-stocking was continuing.

Bigger loss at A I Industrial

By Our Financial Staff
AI Industrial Products, formerly Allied Insulators, has reported losses for the second successive year and the company is forecasting a further loss for the first half of this year. A statement says that it is difficult to forecast beyond then.

"But a modest upturn in sales volume during the second half year should be sufficient to generate a profit for that period."

Losses for 1980 were £1.83m after tax and extraordinary items of £800,000. This compares with a £55,000 profit in 1979. Before tax and extraordinary items, losses jumped from £115,000 to £907,000. Sales have remained virtually static at £19.4m. A final dividend of 0.01p a share is being proposed as the only payment for the year. It is only being paid to keep the company's trustee status.

The chairman, Mr A. Lloyd, says that during 1980 demand fell sharply, particularly in the final quarter of the year. This resulted in even more difficult trading conditions in the second half of the year. In the first half the losses were only £149,000.

The company has embarked upon a major restructuring programme and there have been major redundancies and extensive short time working. Redundancy payments alone cost the company more than £350,000.

Most of the group's divisions have suffered from lower demand for their products. At the high tension division, margins remain under pressure essentially because of the strength of the pound, but exchange losses have not been significant.

The low tension division, which is involved in refractory products, operates with "considerable" short time working and there is particular concern for refractory products.

No final from Tace as margins fall

Tace reports that its turnover for the year to September 30, £15.29m against £14.86m, tax profits fell from £531,000 to £301,000. There was no final dividend giving a total of 1.21p against 2.8p.

The board says that the company experienced a sharp deterioration in demand in the second half of the year, which not only reduced turnover but also brought margins under severe pressure because of heavy pruning expenses.

Expenditure is continuing to cut materially and there are signs that the trading position is improving.

Bright and Wilson reply down

Turnover at Albright and son for the year to December 22, 1980, was £412,345m against £385,722m, but profits plunged from £18.9m to 75m. There was an attributable loss of £2,233m against £15,30m.

The United Kingdom operations were responsible for the fall in profit and principal cause of the downward trend was the deep recession in United Kingdom.

Oran Tea Holdings was at a loss for 7.14p gross to 7.14p net. The board says that in the United Kingdom, the effects of the recession and the consequent high interest rates slowed down activities in property investment and development and will inevitably limit the final results.

Within its portfolio, negotiations are taking place for the sale of two properties in Malta and letting enquiries are being received for the recently finished office development.

I & Smith chief check to growth

Denis Hodgkins, chairman of I & Smith, warns shareholders that profits for the first half will be at a reduced level any significant improvement.

Business appointments

Rowland Wright to join Shell's board of directors

Rowland Wright becomes a director of the "Shell" Transport Trading Company on March 1. C. N. C. Hosain will be the director of Shell UK from March 1. Mr G. S. Simpson, the chief executive of Charterhouse Group, is also appointed a deputy chairman of the group. Mr E. G. Cox, Mr J. A. Downes, Mr M. H. F. Morley, and Mr K. B. Thompson have been appointed managing directors of the group from March 1. Mr J. B. Hyde will be appointed a managing director of the group on April 1. Mr D. E. Wilde retires from executive duties on April 30. Mr J. A. Downes on August 21, both having reached retirement age.

Mr T. S. Braybrooke, group deputy managing director of Chubb, in addition assumes main board responsibility as international product director for physical security products in the United Kingdom and overseas. He is also appointed chairman of Chubb Fire Security and Chubb Electronics. He also assumes main board responsibility as international product director for Fire and Burglar Alarm products in the United Kingdom and overseas. Mr A. Markham assumes main board responsibility as regional director for North America and South Africa.

Viscount Caldecote, Sir Kenneth Corfield, Mr C. S. King and Mr D. H. Roberts are the new members of the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development. The retiring members are: Sir John Arwell, Sir Robert Clayton, Mr D. Downes and Sir Iwan Maddock.

Mr David Houghton has joined the board of Twp Group Management replacing Mr Philip Walker. Mr George Law has been appointed a non-executive director of Baker Perkins Holdings.

Mr R. R. Benscher and Mr J. Lipton have become non-executive directors of Camport International. Mr Fina M. W. Caspersen, chairman (USA), Mr Peter Bunce, deputy chairman (South Africa), Mr John France, managing director, Mr John F. Sutton and Mr Geoffrey J. Geary, directors, and Mr Robert A. Wagner, director, are the new members of the board of the United States Trust. The retiring members are: Mr David J. Farris, directors (USA), Mr Nicholas Cooper, Mr R. R. Benscher, Mr J. Lipton, company secretary are the board members of Beneficial Trust. The result of a merger of Beneficial Finance Company and Security Trust Company.

Mr M. J. Lowther has been appointed to the National Water Council.

Mr Errol Mason has joined the board of Bootham Engineers.

Mr B. W. Denning has been appointed a director of Standard Brands from March 1.

Mr Richard L. Beattie becomes the new managing director for the UK on June 10. He succeeds Mr R. Derek Flay who has been appointed senior vice-president, responsible for corporate development, at the company's headquarters at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Mr W. Duncan Smith is the chairman of the newly formed

ICI in 1980

The Board of Directors of Imperial Chemical Industries Limited announce the following trading results of the Group for the year 1980, subject to the completion of the audit, with comparative figures for 1979.

For the second successive quarter the Company has traded at a loss. The outlook for 1981 is now markedly worse than expected in October 1980. The Board has accordingly decided to reduce the second interim dividend to five pence.

The figures are affected by two changes in accounting presentation which have been made in the light of evolving accounting practice. The changes increase profit before tax by £58m (1979 £53m) and profit attributable to parent company before extraordinary items by £33m (1979 £26m). The quarterly sequence of profits is also affected by the release of provisions made in the first half year.

The following table summarises the quarterly sales and profit before tax:

	Group Sales	Profit Before Tax
	£m	£m
1979 1st Quarter	1185	98
2nd Quarter	1382	162
3rd Quarter	1326	155
4th Quarter	1475	145
Changes in Accounting Presentation	—	53
Year	5368	613
1980 1st Quarter	1523	162
2nd Quarter	1452	80
3rd Quarter	1304	—10
4th Quarter	1436	—6
Changes in Accounting Presentation	—	58
Year	5715	284

The quarterly profit figures for 1980 shown above have been restated to eliminate provisions made for Employees' Profit-Sharing Bonus during the first half year. This bonus depends upon the ratio of added value to employee costs. In 1980 the ratio fell below the point at which a bonus is normally payable and the Board has decided not to make a discretionary payment.

The Group profit and loss account is shown below both on the new presentation and on the presentation previously adopted.

	New Presentation		Previous basis of Presentation	
	1980	1979	1980	1979
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Sales to External Customers				
United Kingdom	2399	2232		
Overseas	3316	3136		
Total	5715	5368		
Profit Before Taxation	284	613	226	560
After charging/crediting Depreciation	291	248	291	248
*Exchange loss on net current assets of overseas subsidiaries	—	—	37	34
*Government grants credit	21	19	—	—
Taxation less grants	—123	—123	—102	—104
Taxation	—123	—123	—123	—123
*Government grants credit	—	—	21	19
	161	490	124	456
Applicable to minorities	— 31	— 33	— 27	— 25
Profit attributable to parent company before extraordinary items	130	457	97	431
Extraordinary items	—150	— 16	—150	— 16
Profit/loss attributable to parent company after extraordinary items	— 20	441	— 53	415
Dividends	—101	—134	—101	—134
Profit/loss retained	—121	307	—154	281
Earnings before extraordinary items per £1 Ordinary stock	22.1p	79.2p	16.5p	74.7p
Dividends per £1 Ordinary stock	17.0p	23.0p	17.0p	23.0p
Profit before taxation and loan interest as percentage of average assets employed	8.6%	16.4%	7.4%	15.2%
*Accounting presentation change				

Trading Results 1980

Group sales increased by 6% to £5715m. Most of the increase was from higher oil sales. Chemical sales prices rose by 8%, but a fall in volume of 5% resulted in an overall increase in chemical sales value of only 3%. The f.o.b. value of exports from the UK was £1173m compared with £1108m in 1979.

Profits

Trading in the last three quarters of the year was severely affected by the world recession and the accompanying de-stocking, particularly in the UK and Continental Europe where profits were sharply reduced as sales volume fell. UK costs continued to increase but against the recessionary background the rising value of sterling held down prices in the UK, and also caused UK export margins to fall steeply. It was not possible therefore to recover the full increase in costs through higher prices. Exports were profitable at the beginning of the year but became unprofitable during the second quarter, and by the end of the year in many areas realisations barely covered production costs. The Agricultural, Pharmaceuticals, Paints and Oil businesses did well but Petrochemicals, Plastics, Fibres and Organics all incurred heavy trading losses. Outside Western Europe, however, profit levels were broadly maintained with particularly good results in Australasia and the Far East, Canada and South Africa.

Fourth Quarter 1980

Chemical sales volume in the fourth quarter of 1980 increased by 7%, but in the UK there was no volume improvement over the seasonally low third quarter. Sterling strengthened further against European currencies which again prevented much needed selling price increases. A loss before tax was again incurred.

The Company's oil business (including its share in the Ninian oilfield) produced trading profits amounting to £22m in the quarter (third quarter 1980 £22m) after petroleum revenue tax of £15m.

In the harsh trading conditions of 1980 major steps have been taken to reduce costs and improve cash flow. Working capital has been contained in spite of rising costs. There has been vigorous action across all operating units to reduce costs and in addition there was major restructuring of the fibres business, where fixed costs and overheads are being reduced on a broad front. Despite all these difficulties, market share has generally been held, but at the expense of retaining business with low margins.

Changes in Presentation of Accounts

The two changes in the presentation of the results are:
1. Following the publication of Exposure Draft 27 (Accounting for foreign currency translations) the exchange loss on translating the net current assets of overseas subsidiaries into sterling is charged against reserves, instead of against profits for the year. This change in presentation increases profit before tax by £37m (1979 £34m) and profit attributable to the parent company before extraordinary items by £33m (1979 £26m).

2. Government grants receivable, which are spread over the lives of the relevant assets, are included in trading profit, instead of being deducted from taxation. This follows the practice most commonly adopted by other companies. The change in presentation increases profit before tax by £21 (1979 £19m) but does not alter the profit attributable to the parent company.

Extraordinary Items

As stated when the figures for the first nine months were announced on 23 October, an amount of £150m (1979 £16m) has been provided to meet certain extraordinary costs and losses facing the Group as an outcome of the severe worldwide recession. The provision includes £95m in respect of changes which have been announced in the fibres operations; and the remainder represents losses on disposal and reductions in holding values of certain chemical assets and investments both in the UK and overseas. These include a £26m reduction in the holding value of the Company's investment in Carrington Viyella to £22m, equivalent to 25p per share.

Taxation

The charge for taxation for the year 1980 amounting to £123m (1979 £123m) consists of £41m of UK corporation tax (1979 £65m), £54m overseas tax (1979 £43m) and £28m on the profits of principal associated companies (1979 £15m). As explained above, Government grants are now credited to trading profits and not deducted from taxation.

Current Cost Accounts

	Current Cost Accounts	
	1980	1979
	£m	£m
Trading profit	93	341
Profits less losses from trade investments	26	33
Interest and other financial items	— 46	— 8
Profit before taxation	73	366
Taxation	— 123	— 123
Applicable to minorities	— 11	— 20
Profit/Loss attributable to parent company before extraordinary items	— 61	223
Extraordinary items	— 173	— 16
Profit/loss attributable to parent company after extraordinary items	— 234	207
Dividends	— 101	— 134
Profit/loss retained	— 335	73
Earnings before extraordinary items per £1 Ordinary stock	— 10.4p	38.6p

The current cost trading profit is stated after supplementary depreciation of £165m (1979 £125m), a cost of sales adjustment of £109m (1979 £139m), a monetary working capital adjustment of £3m (1979 £59m), and indexation of Government grants of £38m (1979 £30m). Interest cost in the current cost statement is after crediting an SSAP16 gearing gain of £64m (1979 £72m). The gearing gain when calculated on the basis that has been previously followed by ICI, which we believe to be a better measure, amounts to £204m (1979 £168m). Under this basis, profit attributable to the Parent Company before extraordinary items is £86m (1979 £318m).

Prospects

The recession in the UK is proving to be deeper and longer than was thought likely when the results for the third quarter were announced in October. Further substantial strengthening of sterling against Continental currencies since then has made the competitive position weaker both for ICI and its UK customers. The vigorous action being taken to reduce costs cannot offset more than a part of this disadvantage. Prospects for the first half of 1981 are therefore poor. Substantial improvement thereafter must mainly depend on renewed growth in economic activity in the UK and worldwide, combined with a more favourable currency environment.

Dividend for 1980

In announcing the results for the third quarter in October 1980, the Board stated:

"The decision on the final dividend will be made in February 1981 in the light of the results for the full year 1980 and of the outlook for 1981 as seen at that time, but it is the Board's present intention to maintain the level of the 1979 dividend for the year 1980."

As indicated above, the outlook for 1981 is now seen to be markedly worse than was expected at that time, and it is not possible at present to forecast when an upturn will commence. Having paid an interim dividend of twelve pence the Board has concluded that it would not be appropriate to maintain the second interim dividend at the level of the previous year (eleven pence).

The Board has declared a second interim dividend of 5.0 pence (five point nought pence) per £1 unit of Ordinary stock, which the Annual General Meeting will be asked to confirm as the final dividend for 1980, payable on 3 April 1981 to members on the Register today. This, together with the first interim dividend of 12.0 pence (twelve point nought pence) makes a total Ordinary dividend of 17.0 pence (seventeen point nought pence) for the year. Including the imputed tax credit of 7.29 pence this is equivalent to a gross dividend of 24.29 pence (1979 £28.6p). The second interim dividend now declared will absorb £30m and together with the first interim dividend makes a total of £101m for the year.

Trading results for the first quarter 1981 will be announced on Thursday 30 April 1981.

JD COUSIN
Secretary

Imperial Chemical House
Millbank
London SW1P 3JF

26 February 1981



Imperial
Chemical
Industries
Limited

MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

COPPER bars were steady, cathodes 26.15-26.20, March 26.15, April 26.15, May 26.15, June 26.15, July 26.15, August 26.15, September 26.15, October 26.15, November 26.15, December 26.15. Tin 26.15-26.20, March 26.15, April 26.15, May 26.15, June 26.15, July 26.15, August 26.15, September 26.15, October 26.15, November 26.15, December 26.15. Lead 26.15-26.20, March 26.15, April 26.15, May 26.15, June 26.15, July 26.15, August 26.15, September 26.15, October 26.15, November 26.15, December 26.15. Zinc 26.15-26.20, March 26.15, April 26.15, May 26.15, June 26.15, July 26.15, August 26.15, September 26.15, October 26.15, November 26.15, December 26.15. Nickel 26.15-26.20, March 26.15, April 26.15, May 26.15, June 26.15, July 26.15, August 26.15, September 26.15, October 26.15, November 26.15, December 26.15. Silver 26.15-26.20, March 26.15, April 26.15, May 26.15, June 26.15, July 26.15, August 26.15, September 26.15, October 26.15, November 26.15, December 26.15. Gold 26.15-26.20, March 26.15, April 26.15, May 26.15, June 26.15, July 26.15, August 26.15, September 26.15, October 26.15, November 26.15, December 26.15.

Discount market

A surplus day in prospect yesterday, but money did not show in any volume until very late in the session. The Bank of England intervened in the after-noon, buying small parcels of bills direct from the houses and flow through the system. The close was quite comfortable with balances being taken down to 13 per cent.

Foreign exchange report

The pound spent a quiet steady session yesterday, operating between the narrow range of \$2.22 and \$2.23. The dollar traded at \$2.225 against the pound. The dollar was up 0.1 to 99.3. The unimproved dollar made no impact, but some early selling from Europeans caused a momentary hiccup. Gains were made over 4.705 (4.630), the Swiss franc, 4.705 (4.630), and the French franc, 11.025 (11.025). Reaffirmation of America's firm monetary policy—and the prospect of rising interest rates—kept the dollar at a higher trade throughout the session. This had the effect of rallying the mark to 2.093 briefly on expectations of an upturn in West German money rates, now that the authorities had signalled off substantial sums from the market. However, the mark resumed its decline to end at 2.115, just over a penny down on Wednesday night's 2.107 against the dollar.

Other Markets

Australia 1.006-1.005, 1.005-1.004, 1.004-1.003, 1.003-1.002, 1.002-1.001, 1.001-1.000, 1.000-0.999, 0.999-0.998, 0.998-0.997, 0.997-0.996, 0.996-0.995, 0.995-0.994, 0.994-0.993, 0.993-0.992, 0.992-0.991, 0.991-0.990, 0.990-0.989, 0.989-0.988, 0.988-0.987, 0.987-0.986, 0.986-0.985, 0.985-0.984, 0.984-0.983, 0.983-0.982, 0.982-0.981, 0.981-0.980, 0.980-0.979, 0.979-0.978, 0.978-0.977, 0.977-0.976, 0.976-0.975, 0.975-0.974, 0.974-0.973, 0.973-0.972, 0.972-0.971, 0.971-0.970, 0.970-0.969, 0.969-0.968, 0.968-0.967, 0.967-0.966, 0.966-0.965, 0.965-0.964, 0.964-0.963, 0.963-0.962, 0.962-0.961, 0.961-0.960, 0.960-0.959, 0.959-0.958, 0.958-0.957, 0.957-0.956, 0.956-0.955, 0.955-0.954, 0.954-0.953, 0.953-0.952, 0.952-0.951, 0.951-0.950, 0.950-0.949, 0.949-0.948, 0.948-0.947, 0.947-0.946, 0.946-0.945, 0.945-0.944, 0.944-0.943, 0.943-0.942, 0.942-0.941, 0.941-0.940, 0.940-0.939, 0.939-0.938, 0.938-0.937, 0.937-0.936, 0.936-0.935, 0.935-0.934, 0.934-0.933, 0.933-0.932, 0.932-0.931, 0.931-0.930, 0.930-0.929, 0.929-0.928, 0.928-0.927, 0.927-0.926, 0.926-0.925, 0.925-0.924, 0.924-0.923, 0.923-0.922, 0.922-0.921, 0.921-0.920, 0.920-0.919, 0.919-0.918, 0.918-0.917, 0.917-0.916, 0.916-0.915, 0.915-0.914, 0.914-0.913, 0.913-0.912, 0.912-0.911, 0.911-0.910, 0.910-0.909, 0.909-0.908, 0.908-0.907, 0.907-0.906, 0.906-0.905, 0.905-0.904, 0.904-0.903, 0.903-0.902, 0.902-0.901, 0.901-0.900, 0.900-0.899, 0.899-0.898, 0.898-0.897, 0.897-0.896, 0.896-0.895, 0.895-0.894, 0.894-0.893, 0.893-0.892, 0.892-0.891, 0.891-0.890, 0.890-0.889, 0.889-0.888, 0.888-0.887, 0.887-0.886, 0.886-0.885, 0.885-0.884, 0.884-0.883, 0.883-0.882, 0.882-0.881, 0.881-0.880, 0.880-0.879, 0.879-0.878, 0.878-0.877, 0.877-0.876, 0.876-0.875, 0.875-0.874, 0.874-0.873, 0.873-0.872, 0.872-0.871, 0.871-0.870, 0.870-0.869, 0.869-0.868, 0.868-0.867, 0.867-0.866, 0.866-0.865, 0.865-0.864, 0.864-0.863, 0.863-0.862, 0.862-0.861, 0.861-0.860, 0.860-0.859, 0.859-0.858, 0.858-0.857, 0.857-0.856, 0.856-0.855, 0.855-0.854, 0.854-0.853, 0.853-0.852, 0.852-0.851, 0.851-0.850, 0.850-0.849, 0.849-0.848, 0.848-0.847, 0.847-0.846, 0.846-0.845, 0.845-0.844, 0.844-0.843, 0.843-0.842, 0.842-0.841, 0.841-0.840, 0.840-0.839, 0.839-0.838, 0.838-0.837, 0.837-0.836, 0.836-0.835, 0.835-0.834, 0.834-0.833, 0.833-0.832, 0.832-0.831, 0.831-0.830, 0.830-0.829, 0.829-0.828, 0.828-0.827, 0.827-0.826, 0.826-0.825, 0.825-0.824, 0.824-0.823, 0.823-0.822, 0.822-0.821, 0.821-0.820, 0.820-0.819, 0.819-0.818, 0.818-0.817, 0.817-0.816, 0.816-0.815, 0.815-0.814, 0.814-0.813, 0.813-0.812, 0.812-0.811, 0.811-0.810, 0.810-0.809, 0.809-0.808, 0.808-0.807, 0.807-0.806, 0.806-0.805, 0.805-0.804, 0.804-0.803, 0.803-0.802, 0.802-0.801, 0.801-0.800, 0.800-0.799, 0.799-0.798, 0.798-0.797, 0.797-0.796, 0.796-0.795, 0.795-0.794, 0.794-0.793, 0.793-0.792, 0.792-0.791, 0.791-0.790, 0.790-0.789, 0.789-0.788, 0.788-0.787, 0.787-0.786, 0.786-0.785, 0.785-0.784, 0.784-0.783, 0.783-0.782, 0.782-0.781, 0.781-0.780, 0.780-0.779, 0.779-0.778, 0.778-0.777, 0.777-0.776, 0.776-0.775, 0.775-0.774, 0.774-0.773, 0.773-0.772, 0.772-0.771, 0.771-0.770, 0.770-0.769, 0.769-0.768, 0.768-0.767, 0.767-0.766, 0.766-0.765, 0.765-0.764, 0.764-0.763, 0.763-0.762, 0.762-0.761, 0.761-0.760, 0.760-0.759, 0.759-0.758, 0.758-0.757, 0.757-0.756, 0.756-0.755, 0.755-0.754, 0.754-0.753, 0.753-0.752, 0.752-0.751, 0.751-0.750, 0.750-0.749, 0.749-0.748, 0.748-0.747, 0.747-0.746, 0.746-0.745, 0.745-0.744, 0.744-0.743, 0.743-0.742, 0.742-0.741, 0.741-0.740, 0.740-0.739, 0.739-0.738, 0.738-0.737, 0.737-0.736, 0.736-0.735, 0.735-0.734, 0.734-0.733, 0.733-0.732, 0.732-0.731, 0.731-0.730, 0.730-0.729, 0.729-0.728, 0.728-0.727, 0.727-0.726, 0.726-0.725, 0.725-0.724, 0.724-0.723, 0.723-0.722, 0.722-0.721, 0.721-0.720, 0.720-0.719, 0.719-0.718, 0.718-0.717, 0.717-0.716, 0.716-0.715, 0.715-0.714, 0.714-0.713, 0.713-0.712, 0.712-0.711, 0.711-0.710, 0.710-0.709, 0.709-0.708, 0.708-0.707, 0.707-0.706, 0.706-0.705, 0.705-0.704, 0.704-0.703, 0.703-0.702, 0.702-0.701, 0.701-0.700, 0.700-0.699, 0.699-0.698, 0.698-0.697, 0.697-0.696, 0.696-0.695, 0.695-0.694, 0.694-0.693, 0.693-0.692, 0.692-0.691, 0.691-0.690, 0.690-0.689, 0.689-0.688, 0.688-0.687, 0.687-0.686, 0.686-0.685, 0.685-0.684, 0.684-0.683, 0.683-0.682, 0.682-0.681, 0.681-0.680, 0.680-0.679, 0.679-0.678, 0.678-0.677, 0.677-0.676, 0.676-0.675, 0.675-0.674, 0.674-0.673, 0.673-0.672, 0.672-0.671, 0.671-0.670, 0.670-0.669, 0.669-0.668, 0.668-0.667, 0.667-0.666, 0.666-0.665, 0.665-0.664, 0.664-0.663, 0.663-0.662, 0.662-0.661, 0.661-0.660, 0.660-0.659, 0.659-0.658, 0.658-0.657, 0.657-0.656, 0.656-0.655, 0.655-0.654, 0.654-0.653, 0.653-0.652, 0.652-0.651, 0.651-0.650, 0.650-0.649, 0.649-0.648, 0.648-0.647, 0.647-0.646, 0.646-0.645, 0.645-0.644, 0.644-0.643, 0.643-0.642, 0.642-0.641, 0.641-0.640, 0.640-0.639, 0.639-0.638, 0.638-0.637, 0.637-0.636, 0.636-0.635, 0.635-0.634, 0.634-0.633, 0.633-0.632, 0.632-0.631, 0.631-0.630, 0.630-0.629, 0.629-0.628, 0.628-0.627, 0.627-0.626, 0.626-0.625, 0.625-0.624, 0.624-0.623, 0.623-0.622, 0.622-0.621, 0.621-0.620, 0.620-0.619, 0.619-0.618, 0.618-0.617, 0.617-0.616, 0.616-0.615, 0.615-0.614, 0.614-0.613, 0.613-0.612, 0.612-0.611, 0.611-0.610, 0.610-0.609, 0.609-0.608, 0.608-0.607, 0.607-0.606, 0.606-0.605, 0.605-0.604, 0.604-0.603, 0.603-0.602, 0.602-0.601, 0.601-0.600, 0.600-0.599, 0.599-0.598, 0.598-0.597, 0.597-0.596, 0.596-0.595, 0.595-0.594, 0.594-0.593, 0.593-0.592, 0.592-0.591, 0.591-0.590, 0.590-0.589, 0.589-0.588, 0.588-0.587, 0.587-0.586, 0.586-0.585, 0.585-0.584, 0.584-0.583, 0.583-0.582, 0.582-0.581, 0.581-0.580, 0.580-0.579, 0.579-0.578, 0.578-0.577, 0.577-0.576, 0.576-0.575, 0.575-0.574, 0.574-0.573, 0.573-0.572, 0.572-0.571, 0.571-0.570, 0.570-0.569, 0.569-0.568, 0.568-0.567, 0.567-0.566, 0.566-0.565, 0.565-0.564, 0.564-0.563, 0.563-0.562, 0.562-0.561, 0.561-0.560, 0.560-0.559, 0.559-0.558, 0.558-0.557, 0.557-0.556, 0.556-0.555, 0.555-0.554, 0.554-0.553, 0.553-0.552, 0.552-0.551, 0.551-0.550, 0.550-0.549, 0.549-0.548, 0.548-0.547, 0.547-0.546, 0.546-0.545, 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0.160-0.159, 0.159-0.15

PERSONAL CHOICE



ma Calder-Marshall as The Woman in Eva Figs's play (BBC 2, 9.30) which she has adapted from her own.

The fact that today (BBC 1, 5.05) brings the final episode of the series about a mixed comprehensive school, as I have managed to see. I was, initially, repelled by the glib behaviour of some of the pupils, appalled by their ready speech, distressed by the take-it-or-leave-it attitude of the staff. And I am still not reconciled to it. My belief is that I don't know whether George Mill has been lying the truth about these schools or not. Some teachers tell it has; others say no. At least with Greyfriars, St Jim's and Dominic's, we knew where we stood: bang in the middle of the never-land.

Look forward to seeing what sort of job Lorin Maazel, the hestra conductor, makes of chairing Friday Night... Saturday (BBC 2, 11.35) and of talking to fellow (part-time) conductor Edward Heath and the full-time conductor of Puccini, C. Corelli. The penultimate instalment of The Walls of Jericho (BBC 1, 8.00) is about a nutcase. The first woman's school in Scotland has opened its doors, but some of the pupils refuse to obey the rules. The outcome is a court case sily unique in medical history. All true, of course.

Little need, surely, for me to recommend you to watch all Heritage (BBC 1, 10.45) as you will most probably already have seen Sir Hugh Wheldon's guided tour around the loon-treasure houses. Tonight's film is about Victoria, Albert. A monumental, imperial era over which the sun yet to set. What marvellous pictures have been provided to meet Sir Hugh's already eloquently pictorial narration.

A first performance and a first broadcast on Radio 3 (3.00) and for the first time on radio is Coleridge-Taylor's Violin concerto in G minor which, with Sergiu Schwartz as soloist, is one of the items in the 1980 Guildhall School's Centenary cert. The first performance is of Paul Barker's Fantasy on notes, and Vaughan Williams's atmospheric A London which completes the programme... Two at One? (Radio 4, 5), first heard last Tuesday and worth the repeat, is about ed marriages. Jill Cochrane is the interviewer... hael Charlton's series about British diplomacy since the 1930s (Radio 3, 9.15) continues with Jean Monnet's abortive rts to get Britain to act in concert with France in 1949. tributions from, among others, Sir Harold Wilson, Lord de-Walker and Denis Healey.

AT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: *STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Daville

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.40 Open University: Computers: case studies. 7.45 Talking to children. 7.55 The power of speech. Closedown at 7.55.
9.05 For Schools, Colleges: Treffpunkt: Deutschschüler. 9.15 Adbere: Triple Jump. 9.52 Look and Read. 10.15 Maths-in-a-Box. 10.35 Golgo to Work. 11.02 Byn a Fyd (This World).
11.25 You and Me: Take My Hand.
1.40 For Schools, Colleges: Maths File: enlargement (S). 12.05 Sixteen Up: The last careers lesson.
2.45 News. 1.00 Pebbie Mill at One: There is nothing of Peter Seabrook's gardening features called Dig This. 1.45 How Do You Do?
2.02 For Schools, Colleges: Consumer rights. 2.35 A Good Job With Prospects. Closedown at 3.00.
3.20 Doctor Kate: tribute to Dr Kate Roberts. In Welsh. 3.35 Play School: Gene Zion's story Barry the Dirty Dog. Also on BBC 2 at 11.00.
4.20 Tench Turtle: cartoon. Tenderfoot. 4.25 Jackanory. 4.30 Albert's story Crusader's Toby is told by Ronald Pickup. The pictures are by Gareth Piddock.
4.40 Fiddlers Keepers. Electronic battleships game, chaired by Richard Stidgole. It is between teams from Coombe Hill Junior School and St Barnabas and St Philip School. 5.05 Grange Hill: final episode in this story about life at a comprehensive school. Rad of term yesterday, but there is not much evidence of the springing visit. (See Personal Choice).
5.25 The Forthwith: with Leonard Reister (r).
5.47 News.
5.55 Regional news magazines. All the regions unite at 6.30 for Nationwide which tonight includes a special item from Scotland.
7.00 A Question of Sport. New series begins. As usual, Gareth Edwards and Emily Hughes are the quizmaster and David Coleman is the quizmaster. Taking part are Bill Beaumont, Kenny Dalglish, Stuart Pearce and John Warr.
7.30 Coming Home: New comedy series begins. It's about two brothers, married, who decide what happens when one of the couples returns to Britain from Canada to start a new life. With Roger Sloman, Linda Marshall, Muriel Maddocks and Philip Jackson.
8.00 The Walls of Jericho: Penultimate episode in this series about Scotland's first women's medical school. Tonight, the money at the school and the campaign that it leads to. With Sara Kestelman as the pioneering Sophia Jackson. (See Personal Choice).
8.40 Fiddlers Keepers. Electronic battleships game, chaired by Richard Stidgole. It is between teams from Coombe Hill Junior School and St Barnabas and St Philip School. 5.05 Grange Hill: final episode in this story about life at a comprehensive school. Rad of term yesterday, but there is not much evidence of the springing visit. (See Personal Choice).
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BBC 2

6.40 Open University: Stereochemistry. 7.05 Maths: ideas of space. 7.30 Database: local authorities. Closedown at 7.55.
1.00 pm Play School. Same as BBC 1.
1.35 (Gene Zion's story Barry the Dirty Dog).
4.50 Open University: Richard Hoggart: a measured life. 5.15 Psychosexual differences (2).
5.40 Charlie Chaplin: Shanghai (1915). Charlie, as a sea cook's assistant, accidentally falls into the sea. A woman, Linda Marshall, plays a stowaway, who is also the shipowner's daughter.
6.05 Monks: Fantastic tales of Old China, made for Japanese television and given an English language soundtrack.
6.30 Speak for Yourself: Advice for those whose landlords refuse to do repairs. Another in this series for those whose language is not English. Repeated next Tuesday.
7.15 News: with subtitles for the hearing impaired. 7.25 News Show: Live show from Manchester. With Rob Rother and Jackie Sprackley.
8.00 Gardener's World: Geoffrey Smith among the carnations in the small gardens of La Colline, in Jersey, Channel Islands.
8.35 America Catches Cold: Newsweek report on the American economic crisis. Keith Kyle asks: Are America's basic problems the same as Britain's? How closely

THAMES

9.30 Am Romantic Man: a New Zealand "music" comedy. 9.55 Young People of Ludlow. 10.15 French: Cabaret sketches about love. 10.35 Evolution. 11.02 Stop, Look, Listen. 11.14 Reading. 11.25 The Lion. 11.25 Maths for the very young. 11.43 For the day.
12.00 The Magic Ball: The story of the toy soldier, told by Eric Thompson (r). 12.10 pm Once Upon a Time: The King Who Wanted the Sun, told by Bill Wynter.
12.30 A Better Read: Mark Grundy's books programme. Tales from the supermagazine.
1.00 News. 1.20 Thames area news. 1.30 Together: Life in a new flat. The potting shed picnic.
2.00 After Noon Plus: Anthony Howard and Peregrine Worsthorne discuss the week's top news stories with Mavis Nicholson.

2.45 Film: The Daughters of Joshua Cane Return (1976): Television movie about a trapper threatened. He recruits three not too respectable women to pose as his daughters.
3.15 Watch 2! A story of Dr Snuggles, the inventor. 4.20 The Adventures of Black Beauty: Story of a ghost. 4.40 The Extremes of the Earth. The youngsters question the writer Buch Emetz. 5.15 Clapperboard: Clips from, and chat about, the series provided by two London councils—Redbridge (Tory-controlled) and Barking (Labour-controlled). Is there value for money for the rates that are paid?
11.35 Mammals: A strange kind of kidnapping is investigated by the British detective John Mannix (Mike Connors).
12.30 Close. Tony Lottian reads something written by Emmeline Pankhurst.

London Weekend
7.00 Family Fortunes: Quiz show, compered by Bob Monkhouse.
7.30 Film: Magnum: Don't Eat the Snow in Hawaii (1980). Thriller about a private investigator

Regions

VARIOUS: BBC Greater Manchester. 1.00-1.30 pm. 1.30-2.00 pm. 2.00-2.30 pm. 2.30-3.00 pm. 3.00-3.30 pm. 3.30-4.00 pm. 4.00-4.30 pm. 4.30-5.00 pm. 5.00-5.30 pm. 5.30-6.00 pm. 6.00-6.30 pm. 6.30-7.00 pm. 7.00-7.30 pm. 7.30-8.00 pm. 8.00-8.30 pm. 8.30-9.00 pm. 9.00-9.30 pm. 9.30-10.00 pm. 10.00-10.30 pm. 10.30-11.00 pm. 11.00-11.30 pm. 11.30-12.00 pm. 12.00-12.30 pm. 12.30-1.00 pm. 1.00-1.30 pm. 1.30-2.00 pm. 2.00-2.30 pm. 2.30-3.00 pm. 3.00-3.30 pm. 3.30-4.00 pm. 4.00-4.30 pm. 4.30-5.00 pm. 5.00-5.30 pm. 5.30-6.00 pm. 6.00-6.30 pm. 6.30-7.00 pm. 7.00-7.30 pm. 7.30-8.00 pm. 8.00-8.30 pm. 8.30-9.00 pm. 9.00-9.30 pm. 9.30-10.00 pm. 10.00-10.30 pm. 10.30-11.00 pm. 11.00-11.30 pm. 11.30-12.00 pm. 12.00-12.30 pm. 12.30-1.00 pm. 1.00-1.30 pm. 1.30-2.00 pm. 2.00-2.30 pm. 2.30-3.00 pm. 3.00-3.30 pm. 3.30-4.00 pm. 4.00-4.30 pm. 4.30-5.00 pm. 5.00-5.30 pm. 5.30-6.00 pm. 6.00-6.30 pm. 6.30-7.00 pm. 7.00-7.30 pm. 7.30-8.00 pm. 8.00-8.30 pm. 8.30-9.00 pm. 9.00-9.30 pm. 9.30-10.00 pm. 10.00-10.30 pm. 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MEAR, M. O. LORD: For his loving kindness to good, turn him into a tender mercies. *Patrim 69: 16.*

BIRTHS

ARNOLD—On 15th February 1981, to Gillian (nee Rose) and John Arnold, a daughter, Emily Rose Arnold.

BISSET—On 22nd February 1981, to St. Thomas's Hospital, a daughter, Emily Rose Bisset.

CANTACZESKI-SPERANSKY—On 15th February 1981, to Mrs. Helen Cantaczski and Mr. Stanislaw Cantaczski, a daughter, Emily Rose Cantaczski.

DAVIS—On 15th February 1981, to Mrs. Margaret Davis and Mr. John Davis, a daughter, Emily Rose Davis.

EDWARDS—On 15th February 1981, to Mrs. Margaret Edwards and Mr. John Edwards, a daughter, Emily Rose Edwards.

HEATH—On 15th February 1981, to Mrs. Margaret Heath and Mr. John Heath, a daughter, Emily Rose Heath.

KITCHEN—On 15th February 1981, to Mrs. Margaret Kitchen and Mr. John Kitchen, a daughter, Emily Rose Kitchen.

OWEN—On 15th February 1981, to Mrs. Margaret Owen and Mr. John Owen, a daughter, Emily Rose Owen.

REYNOLDS—On 15th February 1981, to Mrs. Margaret Reynolds and Mr. John Reynolds, a daughter, Emily Rose Reynolds.

WALTON—On 15th February 1981, to Mrs. Margaret Walton and Mr. John Walton, a daughter, Emily Rose Walton.

WINTERS—On 15th February 1981, to Mrs. Margaret Winters and Mr. John Winters, a daughter, Emily Rose Winters.

BIRTHDAYS

BARNETT—On 15th February 1981, to Mrs. Margaret Barnett and Mr. John Barnett, a daughter, Emily Rose Barnett.

BORRETT—On 15th February 1981, to Mrs. Margaret Borrett and Mr. John Borrett, a daughter, Emily Rose Borrett.

CORREY—On 15th February 1981, to Mrs. Margaret Correys and Mr. John Correys, a daughter, Emily Rose Correys.

EDWARDS—On 15th February 1981, to Mrs. Margaret Edwards and Mr. John Edwards, a daughter, Emily Rose Edwards.

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DEATHS

JOHNSTONE—On 15th February 1981, to Mrs. Margaret Johnstone and Mr. John Johnstone, a daughter, Emily Rose Johnstone.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELP NEEDED FOR WHEELCHAIR GARDENER

Bill May is one of our 270 incurably disabled patients. Bill is a 65-year-old man, who is a keen gardener, which he practices in a special garden at the hospital. He is now in need of a wheelchair gardener to help him with his garden. If you are interested, please contact the hospital.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL AND HOME FOR INCURABLES. (PUTNEY AND BRIGHTON). WEST HILL, PUTNEY. LONDON SW15 3SW. Tel: 01-273 4511.

CARING FOR THE ELDERLY

Gladys White is 82, partially paralysed, and was living in a nursing home. She is now in need of a carer to help her with her daily needs. If you are interested, please contact the hospital.

CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN

Where more of your money goes on research. The Cancer Research Campaign is a charity which is dedicated to the research into the causes of cancer. It is now in need of funds to carry out its research. If you are interested, please contact the campaign.

UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY WANTED

An unusual part-time course administrator with an eye for detail to join a leading educational institution. The course is in the field of education. If you are interested, please contact the institution.

PATRON SOUGHT

To subsidise fund raising activities for the British Red Cross Society. The society is now in need of a patron to help it with its fund raising activities. If you are interested, please contact the society.

JEFFREY THOMAS PERCY VEF.

Mr. Jeffrey Thomas Percy Vef. is a 65-year-old man, who is a keen gardener, which he practices in a special garden at the hospital. He is now in need of a wheelchair gardener to help him with his garden. If you are interested, please contact the hospital.

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PERSONAL COLUMNS

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